

# SCR172

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON STANDARDIZED TESTING AND STRIVE TOWARDS A DIFFERENT METHOD OF MEASURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Report Title: Standardized Testing; High-Stakes Testing

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU

Introducer(s): SHIMABUKURO, Dela Cruz

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR172 on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM  
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**SCR172**

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for EDU on Apr 1, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelley puuohau	State of Hawaii-Dept. of Education	Comments Only	No

Comments: Department's Position: Standardized testing provides the Department with the means to measure student proficiency across the state to ensure all students are being provided with an education based on the standards the Department believes will lead students to success in college and their future careers. Standardized tests, while federally mandated, also are a fair and objective measure of student achievement. The Department has recently conducted a review of statewide assessments and based upon feedback received from schools, the testing portfolio was modified to remove duplicative and unnecessary tests. To the extent allowable by federal regulations, the Strive Hi accountability system includes multiple indicators including graduation rates, chronic absenteeism and college going rate. The Department's standardized test, the Smarter Balanced assessment, being implemented in spring 2015 was developed to align to the Common Core State Standards with the goal of providing information for teachers and schools to improve instruction and help students succeed. - Most teachers acknowledge the importance of standardized tests and do not feel their teaching has been compromised. A Scholastic/Gates Foundation survey found 81% of US public school teachers said state-required standardized tests were at least "somewhat important" as a measure of students' academic achievement, and 27% said they were "very important" or "absolutely essential." - Standardized tests are not narrowing the curriculum, rather they are focusing it on important basic skills all students need to master. According to a study cited in Education Policy Analysis, teachers said standardized testing had a positive impact, improving the quality of the curriculum while raising student achievement. The Department is addressing the standardized testing issues within the confines of federal mandates; therefore, we respectfully suggest SCR 172 is not necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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