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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
REDUCE THE USE OF STANDARDIZED TESTING IN THE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION SYSTEM.

1           WHEREAS, enactment of the federal No Child Left Behind law  
2 in 2001 and Race to the Top program in 2009 shifted national  
3 education priorities from inquiry-based teaching to standardized  
4 testing; and

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6           WHEREAS, our nation's school systems spend growing amounts  
7 of time, money, and energy on standardized testing, in which  
8 student performance on standardized tests is used to evaluate  
9 individual students, educators, and schools; and

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11           WHEREAS, an overemphasis on standardized testing has  
12 negatively impacted public schools, teachers, and students by  
13 narrowing academic curricula, reducing arts and cultural  
14 education, causing teachers to teach to the test, decreasing  
15 whole child and vocational programming, and creating a climate  
16 of compliance and fear among students, teachers, and  
17 administrators; and

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19           WHEREAS, the negative impact of standardized testing most  
20 directly affects low-income students, English language learners,  
21 students from minority ethnic backgrounds, and students with  
22 disabilities; and

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24           WHEREAS, according to a 2014 study conducted by the  
25 National Education Association, 72 percent of teachers feel  
26 considerable pressure to improve test scores and a majority of  
27 teachers report spending too much time on testing and test  
28 preparation, with the average teacher spending approximately 30  
29 percent of their time on tasks related to standardized tests;  
30 and



1 WHEREAS, a 2014 PDK/Gallup poll on public attitudes toward  
2 public schools found that only 31 percent of parents support  
3 using standardized test scores to evaluate teachers; and  
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5 WHEREAS, there is a diverse and bipartisan movement to opt  
6 out of standardized testing led by students, parents, teachers,  
7 administrators, and organizations that includes the National  
8 Center for Fair and Open Testing and United Opt Out National;  
9 and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Department of Education  
12 administers standardized tests in multiple grade levels that are  
13 aligned with the Common Core State Standards, including the  
14 Smarter Balanced Assessment; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in the 2014-2015 school year, approximately 93,000  
17 Hawai'i public school students in grades three to eight and  
18 grade eleven took standardized tests aligned with the Common  
19 Core State Standards, at a cost of \$65 per test; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the estimated cost of standardized testing does  
22 not include time spent on test preparation, interim testing,  
23 test-driven curricula, classroom materials related to  
24 standardized testing, computer equipment and personnel needed to  
25 administer standardized tests, consultants contracted to assist  
26 with assessment preparation and delivery, and the opportunity  
27 cost of educational programs eliminated to increase time for  
28 standardized testing; and  
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30 WHEREAS, in 2015, United States President Barack Obama  
31 criticized the proliferation of standardized testing throughout  
32 the nation and called on school districts to limit time spent  
33 preparing for and taking standardized tests to no more than two  
34 percent of a student's instructional time; and  
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36 the federal Every Student Succeeds Act provides states with  
37 increased flexibility in the use of standardized testing,  
38 including eliminating federally mandated inclusion of  
39 standardized tests in teacher evaluations, allowing states to  
40 choose what test to use for annual school assessments,  
41 permitting states to institute a cap limiting the amount of time



1 that students spend preparing for and taking standardized tests,  
2 and providing funding to states for auditing and streamlining  
3 assessment systems; and  
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5 WHEREAS, numerous states have begun implementing authentic  
6 assessments, which deemphasize standardized testing and,  
7 instead, focus on student performance indicators that promote  
8 critical thinking, open-ended questioning, and collaborative  
9 learning; now, therefore,  
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2016, that the Department of Education is requested  
14 to reduce reliance on standardized testing in the public  
15 education system; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i State Board of  
18 Education is requested to develop and implement authentic  
19 assessments for schools, administrators that do not require  
20 extensive standardized testing; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
23 requested to limit the number of days a student spends preparing  
24 for or taking standardized tests, including practice and interim  
25 tests, to no more than three days per school year; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
28 requested to inform students and parents about the purpose,  
29 potential impact, and protocol of any standardized test that a  
30 student is expected to take, including the right to opt out of  
31 statewide standardized testing; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
35 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and  
36 Superintendent of Education.  
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OFFERED BY:

