
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REQUEST A FEDERAL WAIVER
FROM STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021
SCHOOL YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 causes a disease
2 named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which spread globally
3 and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on
4 March 11, 2020; and

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6 WHEREAS, upon reaching Hawaii's shores, the COVID-19
7 outbreak disrupted the public school system, leading to
8 statewide school closures and the widespread adoption of remote
9 learning programs by teachers, parents, and students; and

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11 WHEREAS, the pandemic highlighted inequalities existing
12 within Hawaii's public education system, with socioeconomically
13 disadvantaged communities and impoverished families often
14 lacking the resources needed to participate in distance learning
15 programs; and

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17 WHEREAS, numerous education experts have noted that the
18 academic disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak has
19 precipitated widespread learning loss, with students unable to
20 obtain the same quality of educational experiences and
21 opportunities as they are provided during normal school years;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, evaluating students based on standardized tests in
25 light of widespread learning delays would provide an inaccurate
26 measure of their academic ability; and

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28 WHEREAS, public health officials project that the health
29 risks posed by COVID-19 will continue throughout the majority of
30 the 2021 calendar year; and



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1 WHEREAS, the performance of standardized tests places
2 teachers and students in close proximity to one another to
3 ensure testing security, which violates social distancing
4 guidelines articulated by the United States Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention; and

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7 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the Regular Session of 2021,
8 the Department of Education was facing approximately
9 \$400,000,000 in budget cuts that jeopardized teacher and staff
10 positions, curricular programs for vulnerable students, and
11 other educational services; and

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13 WHEREAS, implementation of standardized tests would deplete
14 school resources and funding that would be better devoted to
15 maintaining school staffing levels, providing personal
16 protective equipment, and delivering essential learning
17 programs; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
22 is urged to request a federal waiver from standardized testing
23 requirements for the 2020-2021 school year; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
27 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

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30 OFFERED BY:



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