

MAR 14 2012

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC CREDIT OR SOME OTHER INCENTIVE OR PENALTY TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS TESTS SERIOUSLY.

1           WHEREAS, the Department of Education administers the  
2 Adequate Yearly Progress tests for public school students  
3 pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind program; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind program requires each  
6 state to define "adequate yearly progress" for its students and  
7 to determine and quantify the progress that will be made in  
8 student achievement annually until 2014, when all students must  
9 reach a definable level of academic proficiency; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, if a school fails to achieve academic proficiency,  
12 the school is then subject to technical assistance but must  
13 allow students to transfer to another school if the student so  
14 chooses; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, the longer a school fails to reach proficiency,  
17 sanctions against the school become progressively more severe  
18 until the school is taken-over by the State; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, it is imperative that students take the Adequate  
21 Yearly Progress tests seriously to prevent the imposition of  
22 sanctions that could disrupt the administration of public  
23 schools; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, anecdotal information from students and teachers  
26 suggests that students do not appear to be taking the Adequate  
27 Yearly Progress tests seriously; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, reports of students misusing their answer bubbles  
30 on the tests by strategically connecting the bubbles to create a  
31 picture or message strongly suggests that some students do not  
32 appreciate the consequences of their actions; and  
33



1 WHEREAS, some students intentionally perform poorly in  
2 order to reflect negatively on teachers they do not like; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, there does not appear to be any incentive for  
5 students to do well on the Adequate Yearly Progress tests or  
6 penalty for doing poorly; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, generally, students are of the opinion that  
9 anywhere from twenty-five to fifty per cent of the students  
10 taking the test do not do so seriously; now, therefore,  
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,  
14 that the Board of Education is urged to provide academic credit  
15 or some other incentive or penalty to motivate students to take  
16 the Adequate Yearly Progress tests seriously; and  
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
20 the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Education.  
21  
22  
23

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

