

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STANDARDIZED TESTING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that following the
2 enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and Race to
3 the Top program in 2009, teachers in Hawaii have been forced to
4 shift their focus from teaching to testing. Excessive use of
5 standardized tests is counterproductive as it results in
6 teachers spending more time preparing students to take tests and
7 less time educating.

8 The legislature further finds that a 2014 National
9 Education Association study indicates that seventy-two per cent
10 of teachers feel considerable pressure to improve test scores.
11 Over half of the teachers surveyed reported spending too much
12 time on testing and test preparation, with the average teacher
13 spending approximately thirty per cent of their time on tasks
14 related to standardized tests. At the same time, a 2014
15 PDK/Gallup poll found that only thirty-one per cent of parents
16 support using standardized test scores to evaluate teachers.



1 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the negative effects
2 of standardized testing by limiting student participation in
3 standardized tests, prohibiting the use of standardized tests
4 scores for evaluation purposes, authorizing standardized testing
5 exemptions, and requiring the department of education to provide
6 notice of the right to opt out of standardized testing.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Standardized testing limitations; exemptions;
11 opt-out. (a) No public school student shall be required to
12 attend more than three testing days in a school year.

13 (b) The department shall not use standardized test results
14 for the purpose of assessing the performance of any public
15 school.

16 (c) Standardized testing shall not be used to rate a
17 school as "recognition", "continuous improvement", "focus",
18 "priority", or "superintendent's zone", or any other similar
19 designation as determined by the department.



1 (d) Standardized testing shall not be used to evaluate
2 teachers or educational officers, including in any evaluation
3 performed under section 302A-638.

4 (e) At a teacher's request, the department may exempt a
5 special education student or student with limited English
6 proficiency from participating in statewide standardized
7 testing.

8 (f) Not more than ten days after the beginning of each
9 school year, the department shall notify students and their
10 parents or guardians that a student has the right to opt out of
11 participating in statewide standardized testing and that the
12 parents or guardians of students have the right to opt their
13 students out of participating in statewide standardized testing.

14 (g) For the purposes of this section, "testing day" means
15 any day in which a student spends three or more hours taking or
16 preparing for standardized tests."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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S.B. NO. 2592

Report Title:

Standardized Testing; Limitations; Exemptions

Description:

Limits public school student participation in standardized tests, prohibits the use of standardized tests scores for evaluation purposes, authorizes standardized testing exemptions, and requires the board of education to provide notice of the right to opt out of standardized testing.

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