

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Accountability System

REFERENCE: Section 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes

ACTION REQUESTED: The department shall submit a report on the specifics of the implementation of the comprehensive accountability system, as well as the fiscal requirements and legislative actions necessary to maintain and improve the accountability system.

DOE REPORT: Please see attached report.

The Department of Education has a comprehensive accountability system that provides clear, concise, and actionable information on the Department's work in monitoring and improving student achievement, ensuring their safety and well-being, and promoting their civic responsibility.

Recent processes and publications include an Accountability Framework pursuant to 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes, published in November 2003. The framework was an effort to coordinate state and federal accountability initiatives into a holistic product that contained and explained department-wide strategic goals and key performance measures. It also sought to bring the state and federal accountability expectations into congruence with various state program planning, budgeting, and evaluation requirements. Finally, it represented the promotion of an accountability model that is essential to continuous improvement at all levels in the educational system.

Also, in May 2003, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) approved Hawaii's Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook that incorporated the myriad accountability requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. That Accountability Workbook was amended with the approval of the USDOE in August 2003. It is annually amended with the approval of the federal government. The most recent set of amendments took place in July 2006. The following is a summary of the July 2006 revisions:

#### **Clarifying workbook language (all Elements)**

The Department clarified the language regarding most elements in its approved accountability workbook. These non-substantive changes are intended to provide additional detail regarding the Hawaii assessment and accountability system.

#### **Including students with disabilities in AYP determinations (Element 5.3)**

The Department will include the "meets" and "exceeds" proficiency scores of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are assessed based on alternate achievement standards when calculating AYP for schools and the SEA/LEA, provided the number of students at these levels does not exceed 1.0 percent of all students in the grades assessed in reading and in mathematics. If the number of students who score at the "meets" or "exceeds" level on the alternate achievement standards at the SEA/LEA level exceeds 1.0 percent, then Hawaii will determine the students with significant cognitive disabilities to be included up to the 1.0 percent cap.

### **Including students with disabilities in AYP determinations (Element 5.3)**

Hawaii will use the "proxy method" (option 1 in the U.S. Department's guidance dated December 2005) to take advantage of the interim flexibility regarding calculating adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the students with disabilities subgroup. Hawaii will calculate a proxy to determine the percentage of students with disabilities that is equivalent to 2.0 percent of all students assessed. For this year only, this proxy will then be added to the percentage of students with disabilities who are proficient. For any school or district that did not make AYP solely due to its students with disabilities subgroup, Hawaii will use this adjusted percentage proficient to re-examine if the school or district made AYP for the 2005-06 school year.

### **Graduation rate (Element 7.1)**

The Department clarified that the count of diploma recipients does not include a GED or any other degree that is not fully aligned with the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.

### **Participation rate (Element 10.1)**

The Department clarified that students with invalid assessments are counted as non-participants in the participation rate calculation.

Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended by Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, provided an additional impetus to clarify and enhance the Department of Education's accountability system and processes. One of the most fundamental changes in that system is the publication of annual Educational and Fiscal Accountability Trend Reports on every school and complex as well as for the system as a whole. These trend reports provide the most recent three years of data on a broad set of indicators measuring student achievement as well as the Department's efforts to ensure their safety and well-being, and promote their civic responsibility. These reports, designed to be simple, accessible, and easy to read, are being produced in hard copy format and are being placed on the Department's website. The Department first published these reports in December 2004 and has recently published another set.