Update/Discussion on the Status of Board Policy 4540, “High School Graduation and Commencement Policy”

Student Achievement Committee

August 16, 2011
Goal

- College and Career Ready for All
- One Diploma
- Flexibility and Options for Students
- Rigorous standards
- System of Support
Strategic Plan – Transforming Hawaii’s Public Schools

- 3 goals
  - College and Career Ready Through Effective Use of Standards-based Education
  - Ensure and Sustain A Rich Environment and Culture for Life-Long Learners
  - Continuously Improve the Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Responsiveness of the Educational System
Process for Input and Sharing

• Discussions with
  ◦ American Diploma Project Hawaii Chapter
  ◦ OCISS Specialists
  ◦ group of 8 principals, 2 CAS’, and 5 OCISS specialists
  ◦ Leadership team
  ◦ 22 principals and 4 CAS’

• Survey of 197 Student Council Students
Data Review

- **top 20 IHE’s**
  - Social Studies req. 3 credits or less
  - Math req. $\frac{8}{12}$ schools 3 credits, $\frac{4}{12}$ – 4 credits

- **Achieve**
  - SS = $\frac{4}{20}$ 4 credits, $\frac{3}{20}$ 3.5 credits, $\frac{13}{20}$ 3 credits
  - Math = $\frac{7}{20}$ 3 credits, $\frac{13}{20}$ 4 credits
Student Council Survey

- I feel Social Studies should remain at 4 credits.  
  153 Yes

- I feel Social Studies should be changed to 3 credits.  
  144 Yes

- If Social Studies is changed to 3 credits, I will take a 4th credit in Social Studies.  
  149 Yes  142 No

- If Social Studies is changed to 3 credits I will take the following elective course. Top 3 – Language, Art, AP

- I think Senior Project should be required for all students.  
  112 Yes  183 No
Research Review


Research Findings

- Civics coursework has a significant effect on voting behavior.
- If citizens are able to discuss politics and persuade others of their political beliefs, probability of voting is increased.
- “Learning in social studies course work links directly to political behaviors in young adulthood.”
- “By delivering engaging social studies programs, schools and educators can work to improve the electoral engagement of all students in the coming generation.”
- The formal curriculum and informal, social connections provided by schools are each important for the development of civic.
Implications

- Revise course requirements to align w/CCSS & Next Generation standards
- Shift instructional practices
- Align curriculum with CCSS
- Expand pathways for post secondary options
- Redefine counseling & guidance services
- Enhance systems of student support
- Reinforce K-12 (P-20) system