



December 16, 2021  
Student Achievement Committee

Dear Chair Namau'u and Members of the Committee,

We would like to comment on Discussion Item III. A., Presentation on Student Academic Status for the 2021-2022 School Year: Data and Analysis of Middle and High School Quarterly Grades and On-Track High School Graduation.

We thank the BOE for asking the DOE to present the results of the first quarter course marks and high school on-track to graduation data.

We are appreciative that the DOE disaggregated the data to disclose the performance of our high-needs students and by race and ethnicity. When looking at the data, we are concerned as we were for the elementary and middle schools, that certain subgroups and ethnicities are not receiving sufficient additional supports. In addition, we appreciate the presentation on the Waianae-Nanakuli Complex with the focus on Waianae High School. It is reassuring to see that the English Language Arts (ELA) Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores have moved in a positive direction.

However, we have some questions that we would like the BOE to consider when discussing this item with DOE.

1. **Is there a reason why only 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2021-2022 data was presented without the year-on-year comparison of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020-2021 data?** For the universal screener data, there was a year-on-year comparison that appeared to be useful.
2. **What does the DOE believe are the root causes of students, specifically our high needs students and certain ethnicities, receiving failing grades and being comparatively less on track to graduate? What evidence supports this belief?**
3. The analysis on the Waianae-Nanakuli Complex sheds light on the improvement in outcomes for Waianae High in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade SBA in ELA from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2020-2021 school year. **Can the DOE pinpoint the specific strategies that had the most impact?** This would be useful to understand for scaling across other complexes with similar demographics.
4. **Wouldn't seeing the SBA data from a K-12 perspective for both Nanakuli and Waianae schools be helpful in seeing the trajectory of performance?** If students performed well in high school, perhaps there was a correlation of outstanding work done at the elementary and middle schools to impact the high school students. By contrast, if the K-12 data shows that more supports are needed in the formative years, strategically, there could be more resources devoted to the elementary and middle school years to build the fundamentals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Atherton YMCA  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
\*Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawai'i  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawai'i Education Association  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i  
\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
\* Youth Service Hawai'i  
*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*