

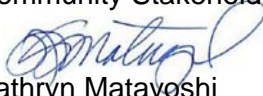


**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 27, 2017

TO: Community Stakeholders

FROM:   
Kathryn Matayoshi  
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Opportunity to Comment on ESSA Waiver Request to US Department of Education**

The Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) currently administers the Kaiapuni Assessment of Educational Outcomes (KAE0) to students in grades 3 and 4 enrolled in Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, the Hawaiian language immersion program. The KAE0 is developed in the Hawaiian language and measures students' achievement of the Hawaii's Board-approved Hawaiian language arts and mathematics standards – both aligned with the Hawaii Common Core – and the Next Generation Science Standards. The KAE0 provides HIDOE the means to assess Kaiapuni students in their language of instruction. Hawaii is recognized for this innovation in teaching, learning and assessment in recognition of the state's indigenous native language, as well as our collaboration for developing KAE0.

Request

HIDOE will be expanding the KAE0 to grades 5 through 8, as described in the Board-approved Hawaii Consolidated State Plan for ESSA (pages 14-15 and 20-21). In Spring 2018, new KAE0 tests will be field tested: language arts (grades 5-8), mathematics (grades 5-8) and science (grade 8). During the field test year, Hawaii will not produce individual student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports regarding achievement for students who participate in KAE0 field tests due to the lack of sufficient data from the field test for student reports or to include results for school accountability. Hawaii is requesting a waiver from the U.S. Secretary of Education from the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reporting requirements for students who took the KAE0 field test so that students do not need to take both KAE0 and the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA).

The outcome of a successful waiver request is that students who participate in the KAE0 field tests would not also take SBA and/or the Hawaii State Science Assessment, thus avoiding "double testing." HIDOE estimates that approximately 775 students across the 23 Ka Papahana Kaiapuni schools, including public charter schools, will participate in the KAE0 field tests.

Relevant ESSA Provisions

HIDOE is implementing KAE0 under Board Policy 105-8 (Ka Papahana Kaiapuni) and in accordance with Article XV of the Hawaii State Constitution which recognizes two official

languages: English and Hawaiian, the native language of the indigenous host culture. ESSA assessment regulations recognize assessments in the Native Hawaiian language.<sup>1</sup> Thus, an ESSA waiver is only necessary to accommodate the field testing of KAEO since students' proficiency levels will not be reported during the development year. Hawaii will request to waive the following provisions:

- Section 1111(b)(1)(B), which requires states to apply the same academic standards to all public schools and public school students in the state;
- Section 1111(b)(2)(B)(i), which requires states to administer the same academic assessments to measure the achievement of all public elementary and secondary school students (grades 3-8 and once in high school) in the state; and
- The corresponding regulatory guidance that accompanies these provisions.

#### Background

In February 2015, the US Department of Education initially granted Hawaii a waiver under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by No Child Left Behind, to allow HIDOE to administer the KAEO field tests in language arts and mathematics to Kaiapuni students in grades 3 and 4 in lieu of the SBA for School Year (SY) 2014-15. Under the approved waiver, students who took the KAEO field tests only took KAEO and did not take the SBA, avoiding "double testing." Also, HIDOE did not report student assessment results for students who participated in the KAEO field test. The KAEO for language arts and mathematics have been fully operational for grades 3 and 4 since SY 2015-16. The KAEO for science for grade 4 was field tested in SY 2015-16 and has been operational since SY 2016-17. Results of the operational KAEO tests have been included in school accountability reports (Strive HI) since SY 2015-16. As required, the KAEO will be submitted to the US Department of Education for peer review in December 2017 with evidence from prior administrations.

#### Opportunity to Comment

Through July 5, 2017, Hawaii is seeking public comments on the request for a waiver from ESSA Sections 1111(b)(1)(B) and 1111(b)(2)(B)(i) to administer the KAEO field tests only to students in grades 5 through 8 enrolled in Ka Papahana Kaiapuni, so that Hawaii public school students would take either SBA/HSA-Science or KAEO in respective grades and subjects. Comments can be submitted via email from June 28, 2017 through 11:59 pm on July 5, 2017 to [ESSA@hawaiidoe.org](mailto:ESSA@hawaiidoe.org).

Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Saka, Director for the Assessment and Accountability Branch at (808) 568-3283 or via email [Tom\\_Saka@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Tom_Saka@notes.k12.hi.us) .

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<sup>1</sup> 34 CFR 200.6 (j)-(k)