LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Standards-Based Curriculum

REFERENCE: SB 3059, SD2, HD1, CD1, Act 301 (SLH 2006)

ACTION REQUESTED: Report annual progress on the process of aligning course materials for all grades with Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) and federal educational standards and on any vendor selected to provide its software programs. Also a second report on: (1) assessment of the implementation of articulated and aligned standards-based curricula in schools and complexes; (2) performance and competency indicators of student achievement; (3) a plan for a complex-by-complex development and implementation of a standards-based curriculum; (4) resource requirements and timeline to implement curriculum; and (5) any need to contract with a curricular developer or consultant.

DOE REPORT:

Introduction:
The purpose of SB 3059, SD2, HD1, CD1, Act 301 is to enable school complexes to develop and maintain an articulated and aligned standards-based curriculum to support teachers in helping all students to meet HCPS as follows:

A. Develop a standards-based curriculum and implement it in a school or complex.
   At a minimum, the standards-based curriculum shall:
   1. Be specific in its standards-based scope and sequence over a school year for each grade level and course
   2. Be consistent in course content
   3. Be aligned across all grade levels
   4. Specifically address the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) and related benchmark maps
   5. Be implemented in all appropriate classrooms in the school or complex

B. School complexes may choose to develop an articulated and aligned K-12 standards-based curriculum in one or more of the following core content areas:
   - Language arts
   - Mathematics
   - Science
   - Social studies

C. School complexes shall provide professional development

D. School complexes that develop a standards-based curriculum shall:
   - Use standards-based formative assessment tools to monitor student progress, not less than on a quarterly basis throughout the school year

E. School complexes shall:
- Develop rigorous classroom-based performance assessments

F. School complexes may implement software programs at the school level to help align school course material with HCPS and federal educational standards.

The Department of Education (DOE) is requested to submit an annual progress report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2007, 2008, and 2009 regular sessions. The progress reports “shall include information on the process of aligning course materials for all grades with Hawaii content and performance standards and federal educational standards, and on any vendor selected to provide its software program or programs and to assist in course materials alignment.”

FINDINGS:

The 2006-07 appropriation of $2,008,000 was not released by the Governor. For FYs 2007-08 and 2008-09 also, no funding was released.

Although funding specific to this Act was not available, the Department of Education has begun the process of conducting reviews of commercially-available instructional materials (i.e., textbooks), through its “Recommended Instructional Materials Report” activity, to identify recommended instructional materials and the extent to which the materials align with Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) III. Reports for the following content areas are available to schools on the Department of Education’s Standards Toolkit website: science, language arts, and social studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.
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DOE REPORT:
Introduction:
The Department of Education (DOE) is requested to submit a second report prior to the convening of the 2007, 2008, and 2009 regular sessions of the legislature on the implementation of Act 301 SLH 2006. The report shall include the following:
(1) An assessment of the implementation of articulated and aligned standards-based curricula in schools and complexes;
(2) Performance and competency indicators of student achievement for evaluating the implementation of a standards-based curriculum;
(3) A plan for a complex-by-complex development and implementation of a standards-based curriculum;
(4) Resource requirements and a timeline to implement specific portions of the curriculum to other school complexes or possible statewide application; and
(5) Any need to contract with a curricula developer or consultant to carry out the purposes of this section.

FINDINGS:
As of October 2008, funding has again not been released by the Governor and the Department has not initiated activities relative to gathering information required for the second report.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because of the comprehensive nature of this second report, which must include statewide student achievement data and data regarding standards implementation from all schools statewide, the services of an evaluator are needed to complete the second report.