



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

October 23, 2018

TO: Deputy Superintendent  
Complex Area Superintendents  
Public Charter School Executive Director  
Principals (All)  
Public Charter School Directors (All)

FROM: Rodney Luke   
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Bridge Assessments for the Hawaii State Alternate Assessment in Science in Grades 4 and 8 and 11**

On February 16, 2016, the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) approved the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which replaces the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III (HCPS III) for Science. Teachers and schools across the state are now in the process of implementing the NGSS, leading to full implementation by SY 2019-2020.

The Department has provided schools and complex areas with the flexibility to develop and carry out NGSS implementation plans that are appropriate for their particular situations. As a result, the degree of NGSS implementation varies greatly across the system. The Hawaii State Alternate Assessment in Science (HSA-Alt Science) Bridge Assessments are intended to provide all students, regardless of the extent to which a school has moved forward with NGSS implementation, with a fair, valid, and reliable test of science knowledge and skills. To accomplish this, the HSA-Alt Science Bridge Assessment will measure only the knowledge and skills found in both HCPS III and NGSS. These assessments will:

- be administered at grades 4 and 8 and 11 this school year, 2018-2019.
- use items from the current HSA-Alt Science item banks so the look and feel will be like the current assessments.
- only include items addressing HCPS III benchmarks which align with content that also appears in NGSS at grades 4, middle school earth and space science, and high school life science, respectively. The test blueprints and content specifications, available at [alohahsap.org](http://alohahsap.org), have been updated to reflect these changes.
- include field test items which will have no impact on student scores.
- have the same reporting categories and family reports as the current assessments.

Specific information regarding the content which will be included on the HSA-Alt Science Bridge Assessments can be found in the HSA-Alt Science Bridge Test Specifications at <https://hsa-alt.alohahsap.org/resources/online-administration-ta>.

All science assessments, including the Alt, beginning in SY 2019-2020 will be completely NGSS-based. The NGSS assessments will be administered in grades 5 and 8 and 11.

- The grade 5 test will cover NGSS performance expectations (PEs) for grades 3 to 5.
- The grade 8 test will cover NGSS PEs for grades 6 to 8.
- The grade 11 test will cover NGSS high school life science PEs and a limited number of earth science PEs that focus on the interactions of living things and earth systems.
- NGSS-based HSA-Alt Science practice tests will be available in spring 2019 so that students and teachers can become familiar with the assessments that will be administered beginning in SY 2019-2020.

In addition to providing all students with a fair and valid test, whether a student is in a HCPS III or a NGSS classroom, the Bridge Assessments ensure that the performance of students and schools is not negatively impacted by moving forward with implementation of the NGSS.

If you have any questions, contact Paul Dumas, Test Development Specialist, Assessment Section, at (808) 733-4100 or via Lotus Notes.

RL:pd

c: Office of Curriculum & Instructional Design  
Office of Student Support Services  
Assessment and Accountability Branch