



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND PERFORMANCE

January 15, 2020

ACTION REQUIRED
Date Due: February 14, 2020

TO: Principals
Public Charter School Directors
ELA, Math, and Science Department Chairs
Special Education Department Chairs
Special Education Teachers
HSA-Alt Test Administrators
English Language Learner Teachers

FROM: Rodney Luke 
Assistant Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Hawai'i State Assessment-Alternate (HSA-Alt) Alignment Study Committee**

The Department of Education's Assessment Section is recruiting experts in special education and the content areas of English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science to serve on a three-day HSA-Alt Alignment Study Committee. Five sub-committees will be formed: ELA Grades 3-5, ELA Grades 6-8 and 11, Mathematics Grades 3-5, Mathematics Grades 6-8 and 11, and Science Grades 5, 8, and 11. Each Alignment Study Committee will meet from Monday, March 16 through Wednesday, March 18 at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel in Honolulu. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m., the meeting begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. A 45-minute lunch break is scheduled.

DATE	COMMITTEE	TIME	SITE
	ELA Grades 3-5		
	ELA Grades 6-8 & 11		
March 16-18 (Monday - Wednesday)	Math Grades 3-5	8:30 am-3:00 pm	Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu*
	Math Grades 6-8 & 11		
	Science Grades 6-8 & 11		

*Airfare, ground transportation, and lodging will be provided for neighbor island participants to attend the meeting.

The HSA-Alt Alignment Study includes item review and independent and confirmatory item analysis. Committee members will be asked to examine HSA-Alt test items for content, cognitive complexity, accessibility, and potential source of challenge issues (item design or content issues that might yield unintended patterns of student response). Following item review, committee members will either determine or confirm item alignment to a single HSA-Alt Range Performance Level Descriptor Essence Statement. The intent of the HSA-Alt Alignment Study is to:

- 1) Gauge the appropriateness of HSA-Alt item design, content, and cognitive complexity for students who take the alternate form of the assessment.
- 2) Determine the degree of alignment between HSA-Alt test items and the Essence Statements and Range Performance Level Descriptors derived from the Hawai'i Common Core Standards for ELA and mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Performance Expectations.

Background

Under the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) regulations, a state's assessment system may provide an alternate form of assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Under federal guidelines, these alternate assessments must be aligned to the state's grade-level academic content standards; however, alternate assessments are allowed to assess the state's grade-level standards at a reduced breadth and depth. The HSA-Alt Range Performance Level Descriptors are the reduction of the Hawaii Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards for alternate-identified students in Hawaii. HSA-Alt test items are developed based on the descriptions of student performance found in the HSA-Alt Range Performance Level Descriptors.

To ensure that the HSA-Alt Range Performance Level Descriptors reflect the grade-level standards and test items represent an appropriate reduction in content and cognitive complexity for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) is convening a panel of educators who are familiar with this population to serve on the HSA-Alt Alignment Study. Panelists will be selected to ensure diverse representation across geographic areas, demographic groups, content areas, and grade-levels. Airfare and lodging will be provided to all neighbor island participants. A substitute code will be available for HIDOE employees, as needed. All non-HIDOE employees and HIDOE employees on spring break will receive a \$178.42 stipend per day. Access to the online registration site is available at alohahsap.org > HSA-Alt or via this direct link: <http://bit.ly/AltAlignment2019>. HSA-Alt Alignment Study Committee applications are due by Friday, **February 14, 2020**.

All applicants will receive an automated email that verifies that the online application has been successfully completed. *Note: This automated message does NOT indicate confirmation of participation.* If an automated email is not received within 24 hours of submission of the online application form, contact Emily MacGillivray at Cambium Assessment, Inc. (formerly known as AIR Assessment) at 808-943-3906 or by email at emacgillivray@air.org.

Completing the online registration form does not guarantee participation as a committee member. Registrants who are selected as a committee member will receive a confirmation email from AIR. Each registrant must receive the AIR confirmation email before attending a training.

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Please share this memo with your ELA, mathematics, and science department chairs, special education department chairs, teachers, and HSA-Alt test administrators. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Forbes via phone at 808-307-3636 or via email at Susan.Forbes@k12.hi.us.

RL:sf

c: Complex Area Superintendents
State Public Charter School Commission
Assessment and Accountability Branch