

New Business Item 25-30

Introduced March 13, 2026

Deferred: Meeting Canceled by Emergency Proclamation

Reintroduced April 24, 2026

Approved June 3, 2026

TITLE: Approval of Leeward Community College's Special Education Praxis Exam Transition and Program Alignment Review

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approves the Leeward Community College (LCC) Special Education (SPED) Program to use the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge as the content knowledge assessment for their General SPED program.

The LCC SPED program will continue to operate as a Generalist SPED licensure program. Should the program leadership choose to shift the program focus to a specialized area (e.g., mild/moderate or severe/profound), a formal HTSB program modification or new program application will be required for Board approval.

LCC SPED staff had agreed to the requirements listed below at the in-person meeting.

- Provide evidence showing its alignment with the Praxis Exam 5355 and the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Initial K–12 Standards (2020) such as:
 - A Curriculum Crosswalk aligning Educator Preparation Program (EPP) coursework with Praxis 5355 content areas.
 - A crosswalk aligning Praxis 5355 with the CEC Initial K–12 Standards (2020).
 - Supporting evidence and course syllabi for HTSB Board review and approval.
- Allow teacher candidates who previously passed Praxis 5354 to meet the SPED content knowledge requirement under HTSB's Recency Policy ([New Business Item 22-28](#)).
- Allow teacher candidates the option to take Praxis 5355 to meet the SPED content knowledge requirement.

HTSB staff requested a review of evidence from LCC to verify alignment with the content of Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education: Foundational Knowledge and CEC standards; however, limited evidence was provided. Evidence of the EPP Curriculum Crosswalks and assignments was insufficient to determine the alignment between the course content and standards. Requests for supporting evidence (e.g., course syllabi, course assessments) were made, but none were submitted. LCC staff wrote that the request for evidence "do not fall under the powers and duties of the board (§302A-803) per Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-801(a)(13)".

Rationale/Background:

The ETS has discontinued its Praxis Exam 5354: Special Education-Core Knowledge and Applications. As a result, HTSB-approved EPPs that offer General Special Education will need to transition using the Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. LCC was also given the option to submit a program modification application to change from its Special Education Generalist to a Special Education Mild/Moderate program.

In May 2025, HTSB staff met with LCC SPED staff and ETS Director Educational Partnerships, Jason Dietrich, to clarify the changes to the Praxis exams and address any questions regarding the transition from the Praxis Exam 5354: Special Education-Core Knowledge and Applications to Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. Materials regarding this new exam were distributed in printed form and sent via email to LCC SPED staff. As of September 2025, LCC SPED staff have not submitted requested evidence.

In September 2025, ETS began offering Praxis Exam 5355: Special Education-Foundational Knowledge. This exam consolidates the Special Education: Mild/Moderate and Generalist Special Education Praxis assessments and aligns with the CEC Initial K–12 Standards (2020).

Cost:

All costs are included in the current staff job duties/responsibilities.

Submitted by: Kristi Miyamae/Dondra Ozaki

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee