



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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December 2, 2014

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Ms. Cheryl K. Lupenui, Chair
Student Achievement Committee
Hawaii State Board of Education
P. O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: Agenda Item VI. Discussion/committee action on the amendment to the graduation requirements policy regarding its applicability to special education students

Dear Chair Lupenui and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), discussed this issue at our October 10th and November 14th meetings and reached consensus that the requirements for graduating with a high school diploma should be consistent for students with and without disabilities.

Specifically, we offer the following recommendations:

- 1) Strike the language from the 2011 amendment to Board Policy 4540 that reads: "The graduation requirements for students with disabilities shall be determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)."
- 2) Add language acknowledging that students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), may have additional time and opportunities to meet these requirements, if they are still eligible to receive special education and related services and have not reached the age of 22.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this policy. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair