



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 8, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair

House Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1715 - Relating to the Public Prekindergarten Program

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** HB 1715 that appropriates funds to provide high-quality early childhood education through the public schools, including charter schools.

SEAC was one of many organizations in the 2015 legislative session to recommend the establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Prekindergarten Program. It is now time to provide adequate funding to enable more children to access these early childhood programs in public schools.

Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years. SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet the high quality standards set by the EOEL will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair