



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 25, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Committee on Finance

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1814, HD1 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Luke 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 1814, HD 1 that appropriates funds to train school personnel in the proper use of physical restraints as well as non-violent crisis intervention, and to develop and maintain a database to document all incidents involving the use of restraints.

This appropriation is vital to the implementation of Act 206 - Relating to Restraints and Seclusion in Hawaii Public Schools. The law provides for all school staff to receive training in identifying escalating student behavior and intervening early, so that the student does not require physical restraint. Seclusion, mechanical restraints (for example, tying a student to a chair) and chemical restraints (for example, medicating students to control their behavior) are forbidden under the law.

Therefore it is critical for all staff statewide to be trained in a timely way to protect all students from unnecessary restraints. SEAC strongly urges that full funding of \$460,000 for SY 16-17 shall be appropriated in order to fund one full-time equivalent position to oversee the provision of training and data collection, and to complete the reporting requirements outlined in Section 1 of the bill. There is currently no money in the Department of Education's budget for these activities.

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