



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

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**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 498, HD 1 - 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), **supports** HB 498, HD 1 that broadens the scope of the early learning program, expands the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and allows the Board to appoint and evaluate the EOEL Director.


SEAC is particularly supportive of the following amendments to the bill that were made in the Committee on Education:

- increasing access to high quality early learning programs by expanding the income threshold for eligibility;
- requiring the Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning to have an educational background and expertise in early childhood education and child development; and
- giving the Board the power to develop statewide policies related to early learning.

SEAC believes that increasing the availability of quality early learning programs 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 us.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair