



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 868 Proposed HD1 - Relating to Education

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), **supports the intent** of HB 868, Proposed Draft 1 that allows certain individuals to engage in the practice of behavior analysis without licensure as a behavior analyst when this practice is done in a public educational setting, provided that the behavior analysis is not a treatment for autism as defined in Act 235.

Behavior analysis is often used with students of all types of disabilities to discern the function of problem behavior and to design an intervention plan that teaches the student new skills resulting in greater academic achievement and functional abilities, as well as a reduction in undesired behavior. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) as defined in Act 235 may also be included in an Individualized Education Program of a student with autism, as a specific methodology to address the student's unique behavioral needs related to learning and communication. Both behavioral analysis in general and ABA as a specific treatment for autism are evidence-based interventions that improve the academic and behavioral outcomes for students with disabilities.

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