



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

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

February 28, 2017

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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

RE: HB 930 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

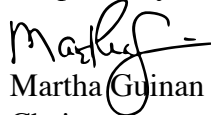
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of HB 930 that creates and funds an Erin's Law Task Force to guide the establishment of a program to educate public school students on sexual abuse prevention.

Hawaii's students with disabilities are at higher risk of sexual abuse than their non-disabled peers. A 2012 meta-analysis of studies regarding the incidence of sexual abuse found children with disabilities 2.9 times more likely to experience abuse. For children with intellectual and mental health disabilities the risk was 4.6 times the rate for their typical peers.

Given the heightened risk of sexual abuse being perpetrated upon students with disabilities, it is imperative that all prevention and early intervention efforts include curricula that are tailored to the individual learning needs of these students. SEAC recommends that the proposed task force include at least one individual with expertise in educating students with disabilities.

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