



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

April 21, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta

Dr. Tammy Bopp

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman

Ms. Annette Cooper

Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent

Ms. Gabriele Finn

Mr. Sage Goto

Ms. Valerie Johnson

Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa

Ms. Bernadette Lane

Ms. Dale Matsuura

Ms. Stacey Oshio

Ms. Zaidarene Place

Ms. Barbara Pretty

Ms. Kau'i Rezentos

Ms. Rosie Rowe

Dr. Patricia Sheehey

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair

Ms. Lani Solomona

Dr. Todd Takahashi

Dr. Daniel Ulrich

Dr. Amy Wiech

Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff

Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Conference Committee

and

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Conference Committee
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1700 HD1 SD1 - Relating to the State Budget

Dear Representative Luke and Senator Tokuda and Members of the
Committee,

As the Conference Committee convenes to resolve differences between
the House and Senate versions of the State Budget, the Special
Education Advisory Council, Hawaii's State Panel under the Individuals
with Disabilities Education Act, respectfully asks for your favorable
consideration of the following items from the budget worksheets:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET

- 1) EDN 100 - Weighted Student Formula Funds for ELL
SEQ # 100-001, Budget Worksheet Page 194

These funds are needed to provide additional supports to students who
are English Language Learners, many of whom are also eligible under
the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Their current
academic performance is significantly behind their peers, and the Every
Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places a strong emphasis on improving
outcomes for this group of students.

- 2) EDN 100 - 2% Increase in Weighted Student Formula Funds
SEQ # 101-001, Budget Worksheet Page 195

These funds will help build the capacity of all public school campuses
to provide standards based academic and other support services to all
students, including students with disabilities.

- continued



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET (cont.)

- 3) EDN 150 - Skilled Nursing Services
SEQ # 100-001, Budget Worksheet Page 197

The majority of students receiving skilled nursing services are special education students with significant support needs for health care and specialized feeding while in school. The rising numbers of students requiring specialized nursing services and the complexity of their support needs has resulted in increased expenditures for the Department. These supports are required under IDEA, and a lack of funding could jeopardize the health and safety of these students.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET

DHS submitted a number of supplemental budget requests for funding specific target populations under Medicaid. SEAC is in strong support of the following request:

- 4) HMS 401 - Funds for Medicaid Recipients through Age 6 with Autism Spectrum Disorder
SEQ # 101-001, Budget Worksheet Page 256

Early diagnoses and treatment of autism results in better outcomes, including educational and behavioral outcomes, for these children.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION BUDGET

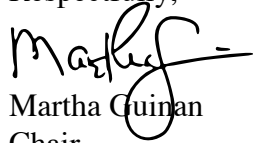
A supplemental budget request impacting students with disabilities is the following:

- 5) HTH 501 - Funds for State Match for Medicaid Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services Waiver
SEQ # 100-001, Budget Worksheet Page 336

A number of students with developmental disabilities rely on the DD Waiver to provide important habilitation services and behavioral supports beyond the school day and on days when school is not in session.

SEAC respectfully asks your Committee to support these aforementioned budget items in order maintain continuity of services for students with disabilities. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,



Martha Guinan
Chair