



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
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**Special Education  
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Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2083 - RELATING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS


Dear Chair Kidani 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 S.B. 2083 which appropriates funds for after-school programs at Kalaniana'ole Elementary and Intermediate School, Kapaa Middle School, Konawaena Middle School and Waimea Canyon Middle School.

Like the authors of this bill, SEAC believes in investing in preventive programs to ensure positive outcomes for students as well as saving resources on the back end. Native Hawaii youth are disproportionately represented in special education and are more likely to be disciplined for school infractions than students without disabilities. After school programs offer a rich array of learning and enrichment activities that benefit students and produce improved outcomes in achievement and behavior. They also provide the supervision and positive peer support that many students need to avoid unlawful actions in the community.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our testimony. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
SEAC Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair