

Special Education Advisory Council

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Hawaii State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2340 - RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE

Dear Chair Baker 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. 2340 that ensures key benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) under state law in the event that the U.S. Congress repeals the ACA.

Access to affordable, comprehensive and timely health care helps to bolster school attendance and improve academic outcomes for ALL students and especially students with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Regular health monitoring and preventive health services reduce the incidence and severity of primary and secondary disabilities and result in huge savings in terms of financial and human resources.

Hawaii cannot afford to revert to the past practices of denying health care based on pre-existing conditions and pauperizing families whose children have extraordinary health care needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerel Chair

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Ivalee Sinclair Legislative Committee Chair

Mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act