



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
1010 Richard Street, #118, Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: seac.hawaii@gmail.com

January 31, 2018

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*
Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair*
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice
Chair*
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Mr. Motu Finau
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Mr. Sage Goto
Dr. Kurt Humphrey
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Kau'i Rezentos
Ms. Charlene Robles
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. Daniel Santos
Mr. James Street
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*
Dr. Christina Tydeman, *liaison
to the Superintendent*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2521 - RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION


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. 2521 which provides funds to special education classroom teachers to spend toward instructional materials and equipment to meet their students' unique instructional needs.

A number of teacher surveys have highlighted the need for additional adaptive curricula, assistive technology and specialized equipment to enable special education students to access their individualized instruction. The monies for these additional supports are often not included in the school budget, and many special education teachers spend their own funds to support their students. The flexibility to purchase additional instructional materials and equipment is sorely needed in order for students with disabilities to access learning opportunities, make meaningful academic gains, and thus reduce the huge achievement gap between special education and non-special education students.

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