



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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to the military*

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Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2610 - Relating to 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), **supports** SB 2610 that requires at least one member of the Committee on Weights to be a representative of the special education community.

SEAC has steadfastly supported that funding for special education staff positions be provided on a categorical basis, rather than trying to assign a weight to learners with such a diverse range of needs. Students with disabilities, like all students, do receive a baseline weight, however, and some may also have additional characteristics such as being economically disadvantaged or learning English as a second language that result in more funding to provide their supports. It is therefore critical that there be someone with special education expertise on the Committee on Weights to provide representation for this group. SEAC approves the suggestion that this representative might be a teacher or parent of disabled children.

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

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair