



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 27, 2018

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2650, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS


Dear Chair Taniguchi 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 the intent of S.B. 2650, S.D. 1 that makes permanent the requirement for certain movie theaters to provide open movie captioning at least twice a week.

SEAC is a strong advocate for inclusive practices in school and in the community. It is well documented that open captioning provides a preferred access to the movie-going experience for students who are deaf and students who are English learners. Students with learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or other cognitive disabilities also benefit from the open captions supplementing the audio. Research has further shown that the majority of the movie audiences adapt easily to the captions and find the captions beneficial by supplementing the audio when dialogue is missed due to poor sound quality or due to audience noises.

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

Sincerely,


Martha Guinan
Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair