



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 23, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2887, SD 1 - Relating to Developmental Disabilities

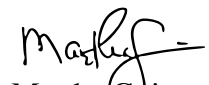
Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** SB 2887, SD 1 that amends the definition of "developmental disabilities" in section 333F-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include children from birth to age nine who have a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition and without services and supports, have a high probability of meeting criteria for developmental disabilities later in life.

This bill will enable the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division to serve these children and their families through early intervention and supports. Research shows that children with developmental delays have better academic, social and behavioral outcomes when they receive appropriate services at an early age.

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