



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 13, 2017

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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

RE: SB 496 - RELATING TO SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

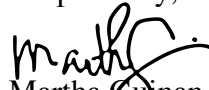
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports the intent** of SB 496 that provides funding to the Department of Education to conduct training on social and emotional learning to school personnel, parents and youth-serving agencies.

The 2015 Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey of high school students revealed that nearly one in five students were bullied on campus within the year and 15% were subjected to cyberbullying. The percentage of students with disabilities that are bullied is typically two to three times that of their nondisabled peers. Research shows that some of these students who experience bullying later bully other students.

Social emotional learning is an effective tool to break the cycle of bullying thereby preventing the adverse effects of bullying on school performance and future success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ivalee Sinclair, our Legislative Committee Chair.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
SEAC Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair