



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

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June 2, 2015

**Special Education  
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Ms. Cheryl Lupenui, Chair  
Student Achievement Committee  
Hawaii State Board of Education  
P. O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: Agenda Item V.A, Committee Action: 304.2 Family and  
Community Engagement (formerly Board Policy 2403)

Dear Chair Lupenui and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), appreciates the previous action taken on draft Policy 304.2 by the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, as well as your Committee's draft proposal for action today. This revised policy reflects many of the recommendations made by SEAC and HE'E. We believe that it is now a much stronger statement of policy on the necessity of partnering with families to achieve optimal outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities.

We continue to recommend that the title for this policy read "Family-School Partnerships" to match the standards contained within the policy and the previous recommendations of SEAC, HE'E and two legislative work groups--the SCR 79 Work Group and the HCR 57 Work Group. Supporting community partnerships (engagement), while valued and necessary, is not synonymous with forming working partnerships with the students' families, and often focuses primarily on enhancing resources available to the school. SEAC suggests that you consider a separate policy on school-community partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our recommendations on this important statement of intent.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair