



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

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October 17, 2017

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Kenneth Uemura, Chair  
Finance and Infrastructure Committee  
Hawaii State Board of Education  
P. O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: V. A. Committee Action on recommendation concerning the  
DOE's Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Dear Chair Uemura and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) welcomes this  
opportunity to support the following key components of the  
Supplemental Budget Request impacting students with disabilities:

Weighted Student Formula (EDN 100)

SEAC is in strong support of more funding at the school level,  
which will improve academic achievement and hopefully facilitate  
greater inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education  
classroom. \$10 million of these funds are earmarked to provide  
additional supports to students who are English Learners, many  
of whom are also eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Act (IDEA). Their current academic performance is  
significantly behind their peers, and the Every Student Succeeds Act  
(ESSA) places a strong emphasis on improving outcomes for this group  
of students.

Special Education Teacher Differential (EDN 150)

While SEAC actively supports the concept of providing additional  
resources for special education, we would appreciate clarification on  
what these additional dollars are funding. Are the monies for extra pay  
for classroom special education teachers or for substitute teachers to  
allow time for special education teachers to participate in IEP planning  
and take advantage of additional professional development?

We have heard from a number of special education teachers who cite  
additional training--particularly in the area of inclusive education--and

-- *continued*



Special Education Teacher Differential (EDN 150)

time to collaborate with their peers and manage the additional load of IEP planning as high priorities. SEAC agrees with the Department that these additional supports are critical to improve teacher retention for this field of teachers who are already understaffed. In order to advocate effectively for their support at the Legislature, we hope to secure more detailed information prior to the opening of the session.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on these budget items. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
SEAC Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair