



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

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**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Student Achievement Committee  
Hawaii State Board of Education  
P. O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: IV. A. Complex Area Superintendent Report: special education in  
the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area

Dear Chair Cox and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) appreciates the opportunity to take a closer look at the delivery of services to special education students in the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area (NW CA), to be reminded of their vision and mission, and to note promising trends resulting from strategic efforts that may be replicated elsewhere.

In particular, SEAC would like to commend CAS Mahi and her team for increasing attendance, 9th grade promotions, and on-time graduation while reducing suspensions. In the interest of fulfilling SEAC's primary function of providing the Superintendent with information about the unmet needs of students with disabilities, we are seeking some additional information. The following questions (which may be flushed out during the presentation and dialogue with Board members) were generated while reviewing the PowerPoint slides:

1) Eligibility categories. The NW CA special education student eligibility percentages differ significantly from the state distribution in two categories--there are roughly twice as many students with Intellectual Disabilities, and one-half as many students with Autism. Do you have explanations/suppositions regarding these disparities?

2) SpEd enrollment. What do you attribute as reasons for the growing numbers of SpEd students? Do you correlate your large SpEd population with Native Hawaiian students being overrepresented in special education?

*(Continued)*



- 3) SpEd teacher recruitment. Are there new policies or procedures that would have a positive impact on being able to recruit licensed special education teachers for your complex area schools?
- 4) SpEd teacher retention. How much time do the SpEd resource teachers spend mentoring and coaching newly hired teachers?
- 5) Student attendance. Do you see your student attendance improvements for SY 17-18 holding until the end of the school year? Are there specific attendance strategies in place that are making a difference?
- 6) Inclusion strategies. In addition to your Natural Resources Academy at Wai'anae High School, what strategies are you utilizing to increase the time and quality of instructional supports SpEd students receive in the general education classroom?

Thank you for this opportunity to ask questions regarding the Nanakuli-Waianae Complex Area special education presentation. If you have any questions, or if SEAC can assist in your efforts, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
SEAC Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair