



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

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February 21, 2017

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Brian De Lima, Chair  
Human Resources Committee  
Hawaii State Board of Education  
P. O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: IV. A. Presentation on Every Student Succeeds Act Impacts on  
Teacher Content Qualifications

Dear Chair De Lima and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is very interested in the discussion around certification requirements for special educators under ESSA, and we appreciate the invitation by Assistant Superintendent Krieg to provide input.


As you know, students with disabilities (SWD) have less access to a qualified teacher, let alone someone who has demonstrated competency in the subject area content, than their non-disabled peers (economically disadvantaged or not). This is due not only to teacher vacancies and non-certified personnel teaching students with complex needs, but also to the reality that only 1/3 of students with disabilities receive 80% or more of their instruction in the curriculum-rich general education classroom.

While we reached out to our membership for input on Friday, once we learned of details of the impending discussion, we were not able to receive adequate input over the holiday weekend in order to provide recommendations today. SEAC would like the opportunity to present our testimony in writing to the Board and to the Department within the next two weeks.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
SEAC Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair