**Special Education Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*

Ms. Dale Matsuura, *Vice Chair* Dr. Patricia Sheehey, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta

Ms. Virginia Beringer

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman

Ms. Annette Cooper

Mr. Motu Finau

Mr. Sage Goto

Ms. Lindsay Heller

Dr. Kurt Humphrey

Ms. Tina King

Ms. Bernadette Lane

Ms. Kaili Murbach

Ms. Stacey Oshio

Ms. Carrie Pisciotto

Ms. Kau’i Rezentes

Ms. Rosie Rowe

Mr. James Street

Mr. Francis Taele

Mr. Steven Vannatta

Dr. Amy Wiech

Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Ms. Cara Tanimura, *liaison*

 *to the Superintendent*

Dr. Bob Campbell, *liaison to*

 *the military community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff

Susan Rocco, Staff

**S E A C**

**Special Education Advisory Council**

**1010 Richards Street, Room 118**

**Honolulu, HI 96813**

**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**

**email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov**

February 5, 2019

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: H.B. 1009 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Ling Johanson and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii’s State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports the intent of H.B. 1009 that makes permanent the requirement for certain motion picture theater owners and operators to provide open movie captioning at least twice a week with at least one showing on a Saturday or Sunday.

SEAC is a strong advocate for inclusive practices in school and in the community. It is well documented that open movie captioning provides a preferred access to the movie-going experience for students who are deaf and students who are English learners. Students with learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or other cognitive disabilities also benefit from the open captions supplementing the audio. Research has further shown that the majority of the movie audiences adapt easily to the captions and find the captions beneficial by supplementing the audio when dialogue is missed due to poor sound quality or due to audience noises.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair

Legislative Committee Chair

Martha Guinan Chair

*Mandated by the* ***Individuals with Disabilities Education Act***