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**S E A C**

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January 30, 2019

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 331 - RELATING TO MOVIE THEATERS

Dear Chair Baker 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 S.B. 331 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***