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**S E A C**

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February 22, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Committee on Ways and Means

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: H.B. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii’s State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), supports adding the Department of Education’s base budget for fiscal biennium 2019-21 (deliberated in H.B. 1523) and additional funds and positions (deliberated in H.B. 1524) into H.B. 2, H.D. 1.

SEAC fully supports the Department’s base budget and biennium request for additional funding. We received a briefing on the budget earlier this month from Assistant Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Amy Kunz. We endorse the Department’s alignment of the budget with strategic priorities and its efficient reprogramming of existing funds to that aim. Specifically, we support the funding of critically needed applied behavioral analysis (ABA) personnel and skilled nursing services through repurposing existing EDN 150 monies.

Furthermore, we appreciate the noticeable efforts to make the Department’s budget process more transparent to families, legislators and other key stakeholders. We are hopeful that your committee will fully support the Department’s biennium request to provide a safe, quality, and appropriate learning environment for all of Hawaii’s public school students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important budget 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***