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**S E A C**

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February 25, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Committee on Finance

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1524, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Dear Chair Luke 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** HB 1524, HD 1 which provides additional funds and positions and makes other adjustments to the fiscal biennium 2019-21 base budget of the Department of Education.

SEAC 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***