



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
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February 27, 2020

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 3156, SD 1 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) **strongly supports** SB 3156 SD 1 that establishes a statewide transition success network for high school students with disabilities.

In Hawaii, as on the Mainland, students with disabilities experience lower graduation rates, lower college-going rates, underemployment and significantly lower lifetime earnings than their nondisabled peers. Effective transition planning and appropriate supports are key to more successful postsecondary outcomes.

This bill leverages and builds upon existing resources within the Department of Education--its transition-focused interagency planning group, the Community Childrens Councils and the annual Footsteps to Transition Fair. It partners with the Center on Disability Studies that was responsible for designing evidence-based transition planning tools for use by Hawaii schools as early as the 1990's and continues to provide meaningful demonstration projects like the Jobs Now Partnership. By requiring each high school to design transition supports that meet the unique needs of their student population, this legislation moves the needle from pockets of success to a statewide system capable of preparing some of its most vulnerable students for future success.

SEAC appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue, and we stand ready to support the Department in its efforts.

Sincerely,

Martha Guinan  
Chair

Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair