



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
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May 11, 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: HB 2200, HD 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), **strongly supports** HB 2200, HD 1 funding designated for the Department of Education, and we request that the Department be given the flexibility to work with the Board of Education to determine where reductions should be made in order to minimize a negative impact on student learning for students with disabilities.

The House Budget deleted \$2.6 million in EDN 150 designated for special education and student support services. Additionally, the budget failed to include monies requested for pay differentials for special education teachers and other hard to staff positions. As the Department implements a new staffing methodology to ensure equity of funding for special education personnel, as well as pay increases to ensure adequate staffing by qualified teachers, SEAC strongly recommends that the Legislature allow for flexibility in prioritizing funding for those programs that are deemed essential for student success. In return, the Department has been working to identify areas of potential savings to offset budget reductions.

SEAC appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of essential funding for the quality delivery of special education services.

Sincerely,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee Chair