



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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March 13, 2020

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2488, SD 2 - RELATING TO TEACHER COMPENSATION

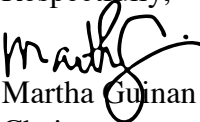
Dear Chairs Johanson and Woodson and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) appreciates this opportunity to offer our strong support for SB 2488, SD 2 which appropriates monies for classroom teacher shortage differentials. In particular, we are most keenly focused on additional compensation for special education teachers in order to ensure that special education students, arguably those most at-risk of academic failure, have access to qualified and certified special education teachers.

As your Committees know, only 84% of special education teaching positions in School Year 2018-19 were filled by individuals who have completed a state approved teacher education program. Retention of qualified special education teachers is also a growing problem. A contributing factor is that the chronic shortage of qualified teachers for our most vulnerable students has led to additional hardships for those teachers still in the field who must double up their IEP coordination and paperwork to fill in the gap.

SEAC is in full support of pay differentials for special education classroom teachers as a tool to both recruit and retain these valuable personnel. We urge your committee to support funding for these vitally needed positions.

Respectfully,


Martha Guinan
Chair


Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair