



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129  
email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)  
March 16, 2021

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Advisory Council**

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Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 815, SD 2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING

Dear Chair Woodson 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 the intent** of SB 815, SD 2 which establishes maintenance of effort provisions for funding K-12 public education and establishes a public education stabilization fund.


Maintenance of effort (MOE) is particularly important for the delivery of special education services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that "a State must not reduce the total amount of State financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities, or otherwise made available because of the excess costs of educating those children, below the amount of that support for the preceding fiscal year." 34 CFR 300.163(a) Failure to meet this requirement results in losing a proportion of federal funds in the following fiscal year.

Given that the largest expenditure in public education is for qualified personnel, any instability in staffing can lead to long-term negative effects on teacher recruitment and retention, and most importantly on student achievement. A public education stabilization fund will help to preserve the quality teaching and resources needed to ensure academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports to our public school students, particularly our most vulnerable students.

Mahalo for the opportunity to lend our support to this important legislation.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

  
Ivalee Sinclair  
Legislative Committee