



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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March 10, 2022

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Advisory Council**

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1600 - Relating to the State Budget

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports funding of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) budget request for FFY 2023 and, more specifically, funding for EDN 150 (special education).

After a budget briefing by Budget Director Alex Kagawa at our February 11, 2022 SEAC meeting, our membership agreed with DOE's priority of making the budget whole again by replacing EDN 150 monies lost to the base budget during the pandemic (\$4,431,663), reverting position funding to permanent funding (\$488,846), and addressing current shortfalls (\$288,857). By rebuilding this foundation, the Department will be better able to improve outcomes for students with disabilities through evidence-based initiatives providing by qualified and effective educators.

SEAC also supports the EDN 150 initiatives that advance education for students with disabilities: 1) 15 additional Complex Area Registered Nurses and a School Nursing Section Administrator to address the unmet health needs of all students, including students with disabilities who have chronic health conditions such as seizures, asthma, diabetes, and life-threatening allergies, and 2) additional funds for staff to assist in reclaiming Medicaid monies for expenses incurred in providing related services to Medicaid eligible students with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair