



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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February 25, 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 1941, HD 1 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports the intent of HB 1941, HD 1 which requires the Department of Education to establish grant programs to provide funds for the planning and implementation of community schools through a two-year pilot program.

Full-service community schools help to leverage assets within the school and the surrounding community that lead to better health, education and employment outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities. Schools in Hawaii and elsewhere that have developed strong community and family partnerships tend to have improved school attendance, higher academic performance and increased learning opportunities for students and school staff, including extracurricular learning and vocational opportunities.

This legislation's embrace of the Na Hopena A'o framework and family/school partnerships will promote equity and help both students and families to feel welcome and supported on campus. SEAC appreciates the proposed composition of each grantee's school leadership team, and we recommend that it include parent and teacher members who can represent the needs of students with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair