



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
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February 23, 2022

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Student Achievement Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2822, SD 1 - Relating to Asthma

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,


The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) supports the intent of SB 2822, SD 1 which requires the Department of Education to offer asthma instruction to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other staff who interact with students. This bill would also make asthma education available to parents and guardians at no cost.

Asthma is a chronic health issue affecting roughly one in ten school age children in Hawaii. The prevalence is even higher for students with disabilities (as high as 16% according to a 2020 article reported in the JAMA Network Open) leading to an increased risk of chronic absenteeism and poor academic performance.

Having school faculty trained in what triggers asthma attacks and how to respond to emergencies helps to ensure that students are receiving timely interventions that will spare them more serious exacerbations of their illness, if the symptoms are not properly treated. While older students may be competent to manage their symptoms, younger students and students with disabilities often need adult guidance or intervention to ensure a good resolution of an asthma attack.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our support for this legislation.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair