

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC) MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2025**

**LIST OF COUNCIL PACKET DOCUMENTS**

1. SEAC Agenda for 2/14/25.
2. Hawaii State Department of Education Legislative Proposals 2025
3. Hawaii State Department of Education Visitor Code of Conduct
4. 2025 Legislative Priorities of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
5. Testimony from Inger Stonehill on HB 616



**SEAC**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
**1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813**  
**Phone: (808) 586-8126 Fax: (808) 586-8129**  
**Email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)**

**Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Virtual Meeting**  
February 14, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

The Special Education Advisory Council will be meeting virtually using interactive conference technology. The public is welcome to participate as follows:

**Public In-Person Meeting Location**

Disability and Communication Access (DCAB) Office  
1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Participate Virtually via Zoom**

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84700086013>

**Join by phone**

Dial (719) 359-4580  
Meeting ID: 847 0008 6013

**Public Testimony/Input from the Public**

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Council meetings on each agenda item prior to any deliberation by the Council. Members or the public are also welcome to provide verbal testimony/comments on any subject related to the delivery of special education services during the agenda item “Input from the Public.” Public input is limited to 3-5 minutes per individual unless the individual has a communication disability that requires more time. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the SEAC office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Council meetings.

**Written testimony/comments** - To ensure the public as well as SEAC members can review testimony prior to the meeting, written testimony should be submitted 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date and time. Any written testimony submitted after such time will be distributed to the members and the public at the meeting. Written testimony may be submitted by one of the methods listed below:

- By email to: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)
- By U.S. Postal Mail: SEAC, 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813
- By facsimile to: (808) 586-8129

*Mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

## AGENDA\*

- 9:00 a.m. A. Call to Order/Welcome/Roll Call/Introductions
- 9:10 a.m. B. Announcements
- 9:15 a.m. C. Presentation on the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Legislative Priorities and Budget for SY 25-25 by Ken Kakesako, Policy, Innovation, Planning and Evaluation Branch and a representative from the HIDOE Office of Fiscal Services  
*Meeting participants will be briefed on budget requests related to EDN 150 – Special Education, the Visitor Code of Conduct, and specific bills related to student support and financing, including the following:*
1. [HB 1068/SB 420](#) **Relating to Education** - Allows 150 newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in work-based learning programs established and regulated by the HIDOE.
  2. [HB 637/SB 421](#) **Relating to Education** - Requires the HIDOE to implement dyslexia-sensitive universal screenings and evidence-based interventions, offer professional development on structured literacy and evidenced-based interventions, and support pre-teacher programs in training candidates in structured literary instruction.
  3. [HB 629/SB 1389](#) **Relating to Therapy Services** – Specifies that a physician's referral shall not be required for occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech pathologists to provide services in an education setting. Allows for Medicaid reimbursement to HIDOE for related services provided to Medicaid eligible students.
- 9:45 a.m. D. SEAC Legislative Committee Report on Additional Bills Impacting Students
1. [HB 1499/SB 532](#) **Relating to the Department of Education** - Expands the Department of Education's authority to allow more trained staff to volunteer to assist students with the administration of medication.
  2. [HB 903 HDI](#) **Relating to Student Health** - Authorizes a school to maintain a stock supply of bronchodilators to be administered under certain conditions. Authorizes certain employees of a school and department personnel to administer certain medication in emergency situations, under certain conditions.
  3. [HB 620/SB 530](#) **Relating to Education** - Establishes state policy to promote braille literacy for eligible blind students. Requires the individualized education programs and section 504 plans of eligible blind students to include the assessment and evaluation of eligible blind students' reading and writing abilities, instruction of braille, and provision of braille instructional materials under certain circumstances.
  4. [HB 320/SB 766](#) – **Related to Supported Decision Making Agreements** - Allows qualified adults, including adults with a disability, mentally ill adults, and

adults sixty-five years of age or older, to enter into supported decision-making agreements with one or members of a supportive community. Specifies the terms of a supported decision-making agreement, including access to personal information and agreement requirements.

5. [HB 429](#) **Related to Early Learning** - Appropriates funds to hire teachers and teacher assistants and for equipment and services for public preschools.
6. [HB 247/SB 479](#) – **Related to the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program** - Provides incentives for HIDOE students to open ABLE accounts; expands contribution source for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund.
7. [HB 616](#) **Relating to the Safety of Educational Workers**  
Requires the Department of Education and public charter schools to take certain steps to report incidents of harassment and implement procedures for handling harassment of educational workers.

- 10:00 a.m. E. Training on the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) by Deusdedi Merced, Esq., Special Education Solutions, LLC, including the following components:
1. An overview of due process decisions specific to Hawaii
  2. Notable due process decisions nationwide
  3. Discipline procedures
  4. The legal aspect of timely evaluations & parent engagement in the process

11:30 a.m. F. Approval of Minutes for the January 10, 2024 Meeting\*

11:35 a.m. G. Agenda Setting for the March 14, 2025 Meeting\*

11:45 a.m. H. Input from the Public

12:00 p.m. I. Adjournment

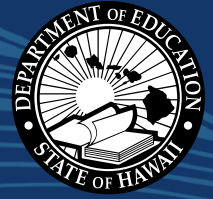
\*Action Required

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact SEAC at [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-8126 (V/T) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

The agenda and meeting materials for this meeting are available for inspection in the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on SEAC's website at: <https://seac-hawaii.org>.

# Hawai'i State Department of Education Legislative Proposals 2025



The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) proposed specific legislation that benefits our students and operations. These measures were introduced as part of the Governor's Legislative Package.

## Student Support

### **HB1068 / SB1387**

**Relating to Education.** Allows 150 newly graduated high school students to be eligible for workers' compensation coverage during the summer following their high school graduation while participating in work-based learning programs established and regulated by the Department of Education.

### **HB1073 / SB1392**

**Relating to Dyslexia.** Requires the Department of Education to administer a dyslexia sensitive universal screener as part of the universal screening process, provide evidence-based interventions, and offer professional development on dyslexia and structured literacy.

## Financing

### **HB1070 / SB1389**

**Relating to Therapy Services.** Specifies that a physician's referral shall not be required for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and speech pathologists to provide services in an education setting.

### **HB1072 / SB1391**

**Relating to Education.** Appropriates \$3m to the Department of Education as matching funding for teachers through Donor's Choose. Funding is being requested for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

### **HB1075 / SB1394**

**Relating to Education.** Amends the law to reduce the amount the Department of Education is required to charge for school meals to all students enrolled in department schools.

## Housekeeping

### **HB1067 / SB1386**

**Relating to Education.** Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsorily or voluntarily induction into the armed services of the United States and to persons whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices.

### **HB1071 / SB1390**

**Relating to Computer Science Legislative Report.** Changes the due date of the Department of Education's computer science legislative report from June 30 to twenty days prior to the start of the legislative regular session.

### **HB1069 / SB1388**

**Relating to Education.** Adds two voting members that represent the Department of Education or the Board of Education to the School Facilities Authority Board.

### **HB1074 / SB1393**

**Relating to the Use of Public Lands.** Requires the School Facilities Authority to consult with the Department of Education prior to the conveyance of ownership or lease of lands.

### Questions?

Contact the Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance,  
Policy, Innovation, Planning and Evaluation Branch  
[legcoordinate@k12.hi.us](mailto:legcoordinate@k12.hi.us)  
(808) 784-6280

01/23/2025

## VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

### PURPOSE:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is committed to living Aloha and providing a safe and harmonious learning and work environment. Living Aloha inspires a culture of respect, cooperation, and mutual support. With this in mind, we create clear expectations for visitors while they are on Department property and/or during Department activities.

### DEFINITIONS:

“Department Activities” includes but is not limited to Department functions/events, Department operations, Department sponsored activities, as well as extracurricular activities.

“Prohibited Behavior” includes but is not limited to abusive and/or vulgar language and/or gestures, talking over one another, behavior that encroaches on another’s personal space, intimidation/intimidating behavior, intentionally destroying/damaging Department property, intentionally disrupting Department activities, offensive comments, physical aggression, physical attacks, profanity, and threats/threatening behavior.

“Visitors” includes non-Department employees as well as Department employees who are not acting in connection with their duties and responsibilities to the Department.

### EXPECTATIONS:

The following are expectations that all Visitors must comply with:

- **Respectful Communication:** Visitors shall communicate and conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner with Department employees, students, and other Visitors, refraining from engaging in Prohibited Behaviors. Communication channels include but are not limited to in-person conversations, video calls (e.g., Zoom, Teams, Google Meet), text messages, email, telephone calls, voicemails, social media posts, and messages, etc.
- **Boundaries:** Visitors shall respect the personal and professional boundaries of Department employees, students, and other Visitors, refraining from engaging in Prohibited Behaviors.
- **Compliance with School Policies:** Visitors shall comply with all requirements for being on Department property or at a Department Activity, which may include but is not limited to signing-in, requesting permission to enter the property or attend the function, etc.
- **Compliance with Legal Requirements:** Visitors shall treat all Department employees, students, and other Visitors with fairness, dignity, and respect, and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those related to harassment, discrimination, and personal conduct.

### CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS:

Violation of this Visitor Code of Conduct may result in appropriate action, including but not limited to restrictions on the types of communications that will be allowed (e.g., requiring written communication as opposed to telephone calls, etc.), restrictions on access to school premises or participation in Department Activities, the suspension of privileges, or legal action where appropriate, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

# 2025 Legislative Priorities

## *Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities*



As the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC), we are committed to advocating for measures that empower and support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. For the 2025 legislative session, we have identified the following key priorities:

### **1. Funding for Kokua Kanawai, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), and Capacity Evaluations**

- **Measure Numbers:** HB648/SB788
- **Measures from last year:** None
- **Objective:** Address inequities in guardianship and conservatorship cases by providing a two-year pilot program with \$100,000 annual funding to each probate and family court for investigative and evaluative tools.
- **Key Points:**
  - Enhance fairness and informed decision-making in court cases.
  - Ensure equitable access to Kokua Kanawai, GAL, and capacity evaluations for financially limited respondents.
  - Pilot project limited to Probate and Family Courts, focusing on cases where these tools will have significant impact.

### **2. Supported Decision Making (SDM)**

- **Measure Numbers:** HB320/SB766
- **Measures from last year:** None
- **Objective:** Establish legal recognition for Supported Decision Making agreements to empower individuals in making informed choices while maintaining autonomy.
- **Key Points:**
  - Enable notarized SDM agreements to be accepted by Hawaii's financial and health institutions.
  - Provide individuals with the necessary support to gather information and express their decisions effectively.
  - Include safeguards to prevent abuse or misuse of SDM agreements.
  - Leading best practice for alternatives to guardianship

### 3. Health Disparity Study

- **Measure Numbers:** HB819/SB850
- **Measures from last year:** [SB2051](#) / [HB2160](#)
- **Objective:** Allocate \$500,000 to study health disparities among individuals with disabilities across Hawaii's zip codes.
- **Key Points:**
  - Identify underserved populations and regional challenges.
  - Assess the true scope of individuals with developmental disabilities to improve resource allocation.

### 5. Medicaid Buy-In Program

- **Measure Numbers:** SB451
- **Measures from last year:** [SB3251](#) / [HB1613](#)
- **Objective:** Create a Medicaid Buy-In Program to close the coverage gap for Hawaii residents exceeding traditional Medicaid income thresholds.
- **Key Points:**
  - Enable income-based premiums for Medicaid access.
  - Ensure access to essential medical services for uninsured or underinsured individuals.

### 4. ABLÉ Savings Program Education

- **Measure Numbers:** HB247/SB479
- **Measures from last year:** [HB2556](#) / [SB3003](#)
- **Objective:** Enhance financial independence for individuals with disabilities through incentivized savings accounts.
- **Key Points:**
  - Provide incentives for Department of Education students to open ABLÉ accounts.
  - Expand contribution sources for the Hawaii ABLÉ Savings Program Trust Fund.
  - Establish a new full-time position within the DDC to promote the ABLÉ program.

### 6. Adult Changing Tables: Relating to Equity

- **Measure Numbers:** SB718
- **Measures from last year:** SB2503/HB1145
- **Objective:** Universal changing accommodations in state buildings.
- **Key Points:**
  - Bring Hawai'i in line with equitable accommodations in state buildings

## CONTACT

### Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Princess Victoria Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Room 122



Please scan this QR Code to access our website.

**Office Phone:** (808) 586-810  
**Website:** [www.hiddcouncil.org/](http://www.hiddcouncil.org/)



**Testimony to SEAC from Inger Stonehill on February 13, 2025 at 10:07 a.m.**

**Re: HB 616 – Relating to the Safety of Educational Workers**

I am writing to strongly urge you to support this critical piece of legislation that will safeguard Hawai'i's dedicated educational workers from persistent harassment and workplace intimidation.

There is currently no standardized Department of Education (DOE) procedure for handling harassment incidents involving community members. Instead, the response is left entirely to the discretion of an educational worker's immediate supervisor, leading to disparities in enforcement and inequities in protection. The lack of a formalized process leaves countless employees vulnerable to repeated harassment, with no clear mechanisms for accountability or safety.

For over a decade, DOE inaction has left educators to fend for themselves against these threats, despite existing policies like BOE policy 1110-7 and statutes such as 711-1106, which mandate a safe working environment. The recently introduced Code of Conduct fails to address the gaps, as its redundant and poorly executed rollout has resulted in inconsistent implementation across schools.

HB 616 directly addresses this alarming gap by requiring the DOE and Public Charter Schools to establish clear, enforceable response protocols when harassment occurs. This bill will mandate formal investigations into reported incidents to ensure accountability. It will also require timely reporting to law enforcement when necessary to address incidents effectively. Additionally, the bill calls for the development of emergency safety plans to protect employees at risk. Lastly, it ensures that employees pursuing legal action, such as Temporary Restraining Orders, receive the necessary assistance.

In summary, here are the key points that HB 616 is trying to address.

- **Mandatory investigations**  
Requires the Department of Education and public charter schools to conduct formal investigations into reported incidents of harassment.
- **Reporting threats to law enforcement:** Ensures that incidents involving potential physical harm are reported to law enforcement within 48 hours.
- **Emergency safety plans:** Requires the development of written safety plans to assist educational workers facing harassment or potentially harmful situations.
- **Annual training:** Mandates training for all educational workers on de-escalation techniques and handling harassment from external individuals.

No workplace should tolerate harassment, and our schools should be no different.

For a comprehensive google slide presentation click below,

[bit.ly/HB616Supporter](http://bit.ly/HB616Supporter).

Respectfully Inger Stonehill

Sent from my iPhone