February 5, 2016

RE: HB 1814 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii’s State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strongly supports HB 1814 that appropriates funds to train school personnel in the proper use of physical restraints as well as non-violent crisis intervention and to develop and maintain a database to document all incidents involving the use of restraints.

HB 1814 will also fund one full-time equivalent position to oversee the provision of training and data collection, and to complete the reporting requirements outlined in Section 1 of the bill. This appropriation is vital to the implementation of Act 206 - Relating to Restraints and Seclusion in Hawaii Public Schools. There is currently no money in the Department of Education’s budget for these activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair