RE: HB 672, HD 2 - RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii’s State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), supports the intent of HB 672, HD 2 that formally establishes and funds the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn program within the Department of Education.

School-health services are essential to providing preventive and early intervening health support to all students, as well as support to students with disabilities and chronic health conditions that require monitoring and in-school interventions. Having the services on campus ensures access to students who might otherwise be unserved or underserved.

In the interest of ensuring the most effective and fiscally responsible school health program, SEAC recommends that additional information be made available regarding: 1) data on student outcomes from the piloting of the Hawaii Keiki program over the last several years, 2) how the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, and more specifically the Public Health Nursing Section and the Med-QUEST Division, will interface with the program, and 3) a breakdown of the budget for the $4.5 million appropriation request.

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

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair

Ivalee Sinclair
Legislative Committee Chair

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

Ms. Martha Guinan, Chair
Ms. Dale Matsuura, Vice Chair
Dr. Patricia Sheehey, Vice Chair
Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, Vice Chair

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Robert Campbell, liaison to the military
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Gabrielle Finn
Mr. Sage Goto
Ms. Valerie Johnson
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Kaili Murbach
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Kau’i Rezentes
Ms. Charlene Robles
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Mr. James Street
Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Mr. Steven Vannatta
Mr. Gavin Villar
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act