



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
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**LATE TESTIMONY**

March 18, 2008

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Mr. Wilfred Young

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION  
AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

HCR 162/HR 32 - Urging Congress to Pass Legislation Requiring Full Funding of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** the portion of the above resolution which calls for the Legislature to urge Congress to fulfill its decades old promise to compensate states for the additional costs of educating students with disabilities. This compensation was calculated as 40% of the average per pupil expenditure, or APPE. As the above resolution states, Congress has never been able to achieve more than an 18% reimbursement through discretionary funding. Therefore, SEAC supports *mandatory* full funding of IDEA. The monies recouped through this mandatory funding could be used for a variety of important educational initiatives that benefit all students, such as reducing class size, compensating teachers more equitably and purchasing research based instructional materials and equipment.

SEAC does not support full funding of the No Child Left Behind Act as it stands, because we find major flaws in its implementation and anticipate significant changes to the legislation by Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions regarding our position, you are welcome to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair