

MAR 18 2009

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND SENATE PRESIDENT TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL  
EDUCATION CAUCUS IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE'S  
RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD HAWAII'S SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

1           WHEREAS, special education and related services are a  
2 critical component of education policy and provide a challenge  
3 for educators and policy makers alike in developing thoughtful  
4 solutions for Hawaii's public schools; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that as a result of federal  
7 civil rights and special education laws, the State of Hawaii has  
8 discretion in how it provides education that is accessible to  
9 all students in need of special education through traditional  
10 public schools, charter schools, private schools, and home  
11 schools; and  
12

13           WHEREAS, in recent years, only a limited number of state  
14 legislative measures affecting special education have been  
15 enacted in response to the reauthorized Individuals with  
16 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, and its  
17 implementing federal regulations that govern the State's  
18 responsibilities toward exceptional children; now, therefore,  
19

20           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
22 that the Governor and Senate President are urged to establish a  
23 Special Education Caucus in recognition of the State's  
24 responsibilities toward Hawaii's special education students and  
25 their families; and  
26

27           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Education Caucus  
28 include members of the State Senate and a community resource  
29 group of special education advocates and providers to assist the  
30 Special Education Caucus in identifying priority areas,  
31 including an annual Special Education Caucus Package of measures  
32 to address the State's response to the reauthorized Individuals  
33 with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Public Law 108-446, and  
34 its implementing federal regulations; and



1  
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Education Caucus is  
3 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the  
4 Senate, including proposed legislation consisting of Hawaii's  
5 first Exceptional Children's Education Act of 2010, no later  
6 than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010 Regular  
7 Session; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the  
11 Senate, and Superintendent of Education.

12  
13  
14

OFFERED BY: Waman Sakuma

