



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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February 9, 2011

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Advisory Council**

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Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1562 - RELATING TO SPECIAL 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), **supports the intent of HB 1562 with respect to adding two new definitions to Section 302A-101 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.**

These definitions for "related services" and "student with a disability" mirror those in Chapter 60, Hawaii's administrative rules for special education. SEAC was a proactive agent in amending these rules to be in compliance to the 2004 Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act while at the same time substituting more updated and neutral terms for the fourteen eligibility categories.

SEAC takes no position on the remaining provisions of HB 1562. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our input on this proposed legislation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

**Sarah Galloway
Art Therapist
187 Lolohe Ct #101
Wahiawa, HI 96786**

February 9, 2011

Mr. Representative Roy Takumi
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Re.: House Bill 1562

Dear Representative Roy Takumi, Chair of the House Education Committee,

My name is Sarah Galloway, and I am a Registered Art Therapist in Hawaii. I support this bill as it includes Music Therapy and Art Therapy as related services for children with disabilities. I have several years of experience in working with people of all ages who have developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. Recently I have provided art therapy to a child with autism. As with the clients I have had in the past, I have noticed appreciable progress in his behavior while participating in art therapy. This child has a great deal of difficulty communicating verbally, and art therapy has been a great outlet for him as a means of expression, as well as a way to better communicate with others around him. He is also able to practice using his verbal communication as it relates to the artwork. Art therapy can be beneficial to children in improving communication skills, learning to express feelings, practicing appropriate social skills with others, and addressing traumatic issues, to name a few reasons. Art Therapy has been used for many years as a service within other school districts around the country, most notably the Miami-Dade area in Florida. I would be happy to provide research and journal articles about this.

I feel that many more children would benefit from Art Therapy if this bill is passed. Though some children take part in it now, the cost can be prohibitive, and parents must seek out qualified Art Therapists on their own, rather than finding them through the school. Please consider making Music Therapy and Art Therapy available through the Special Education program.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 1526,

Sarah Galloway MA ATR LMHC
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Email: sarahm.galloway@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

February 9, 2011 at 2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 309

LATE TESTIMONY

Written Testimony
By
Christine K. Sorensen
Dean, College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1562: RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education supports the parts of HB 1562, and the overall intent of HB 1562.

Particularly, we support the change in terminology from "exceptional child" to "student with a disability," as it is clearer and more dispositive to this bill. Also, the qualifications for sign language interpreters are clear and reasonable. It is important that those providing interpretations are certified in interpretation, and not merely proficient in sign language, as interpretation is specialized and requires special skills.

However, the amendments to this bill may prove to be overbroad, and create expenditures for which no budget is allotted. For example, "Related Services" includes tremendously costly services, such as "medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes" and "parent counseling and training." I would argue that these services are beyond the scope of a public school facility. Providing what could be interpreted as specialized medical care and diagnosis through the school is not fiscally possible, nor is it logistically sound.

While the intent of this bill is admirable, we caution against overbroad definitions that will further adversely impact a school's financial responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.