



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129  
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

January 31, 2011

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*  
Ms. Barbara Pretty, *Acting  
Vice Chair*

- Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
- Ms. Sue Brown
- Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
- Ms. Annette Cooper
- Ms. Phyllis DeKok
- Ms. Mary Ellis
- Ms. Debra Farmer
- Ms. Gabriele Finn
- Dr. David Fray
- Ms. Martha Guinan
- Mr. Henry Hashimoto
- Dr. Martin Hirsch
- Ms. Tami Ho
- Ms. Barbara Ioli
- Ms. Bernadette Lane
- Ms. Shanelle Lum
- Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
- Ms. Kristy Nishimura
- Ms. Sue Pyun
- Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
- Ms. Melissa Rosen
- Dr. Patricia Sheehy
- Mr. August Suehiro
- Ms. Cari White
- Ms. Jasmine Williams
- Mr. Duane Yee
- Ms. Carol Young

Jan Tateishi, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 338 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chairs Takumi and Rhoads and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HB 338 which proposes to create a Board of Education Selection Advisory Council to forward nominations to the Governor for appointment upon the consent of the Senate.

SEAC holds that the proposed BOE Selection Advisory Council is necessary in order to ensure the qualifications of the Board nominees and to contribute to greater transparency of the selection process. Having this intermediary body also lessens the possibility that Board selections become politicized.

A critical role of the proposed BOE Selection Advisory Council will be to make certain that a reasonable number of Board nominees possess expertise regarding special education and related services. Students with disabilities often require complex and individualized supports in order to benefit from their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair