



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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April 15, 2013

**Special Education
 Advisory Council**

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Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
 Senate Committee on Education
 State Capitol
 Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR 57 - REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONTINUE
 TO COLLABORATE WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
 ORGANIZATIONS TO ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT, AND
 MONITOR STATEWIDE POLICIES FOR FAMILY-SCHOOL
 PARTNERSHIPS

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State
 Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
 (IDEA), is in **strong support** of HCR 57.

Representatives from SEAC have been working over the last two years
 with the Department of Education and representatives from diverse family
 and community organizations to address the concerns raised in previous
 resolutions (SCR 145 in 2011 and SCR 79 in 2012). Since the Department
 of Education's latest report to the Legislature in December 2012 on SCR
 79 efforts, there has been no clear plan to accomplish the remaining tasks
 outlined by the Department and seconded by the participating family
 and community organizations. These efforts are needed to build the
 capacity of public schools to engage routinely in family school partnership
 practices.

SEAC firmly believes that HCR 57 and its Senate counterpart, SCR 49,
 are needed to maintain the momentum of the group and realize our shared
 goals, so that ultimately, student achievement is positively impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our strong support for this
 important resolution. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer
 them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair