



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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LATE

February 19, 2014

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Senator David Ige, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2422, SD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments only** on SB 2422, SD 1 that allows for the emergency administration of auto-injectable epinephrine by school staff who volunteer to do so and requires instruction of volunteers by a qualified health care professional overseen by the Department of Health.

SEAC believes that the bill would be made stronger by the substitution of the word *anaphylaxis* for the term *anaphylactic shock* in Section 1, 1(a)(2), 1(b)(3) and 2(g). It is our understanding that there is a distinction between the terms *anaphylaxis* and *anaphylactic shock*. *Anaphylaxis* refers to a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction caused by a variety of triggers, including certain foods, drugs, insect stings and bites, and latex. *Anaphylactic shock* is the most serious form of generalized anaphylaxis that is often characterized by lowered blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, vomiting and difficulty in breathing due to a swelling of the larynx. It may lead to coma and death.

Students who have experienced anaphylaxis in the past are likely to experience it again. Symptoms of anaphylaxis usually occur within five minutes to two hours after exposure to the allergen.

If SEAC's understanding of the terms is correct, then the revised language would allow preventive treatment with auto-injectable epinephrine by a trained employee or agent **as soon as anaphylaxis is suspected**, in the event that the student is unable to administer the auto-injectable epinephrine independently (as in the case of a



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pre-school student or a student with physical or cognitive disabilities). Early administration of epinephrine would help to prevent more life-threatening symptoms and medical complications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this potentially life-saving legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivalee Sinclair".

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair