

SB2610

Measure Title: RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Report Title: Committee on Weights; Special Education; Board of Education

Description: Requires at least one member of the committee on weights to be a representative of the special education community, such as a special education teacher or the parent of an exceptional child.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): KIDANI, BAKER, CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, Dela Cruz, Harimoto, Ihara, Shimabukuro, Slom, Wakai



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/08/2016
Time: 09:45 AM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2610 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires at least one member of the committee on weights to be a representative of the special education community, such as a special education teacher or the parent of an exceptional child.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education takes **no position on SB 2610** but would respectfully like to provide comments for the committee's consideration.

Composition of the Committee on Weights (COW) is currently determined by action of the Board of Education (BOE), based on recommendations from the BOE's Finance and Instructure Committee (FIC). The FIC recommendation is partially informed by a proposal from the superintendent and dean of the college of education.

There are opportunities for public testimony at the BOE's General Business Meeting and FIC meeting. There was no input provided via testimony at any of these meetings regarding the COW composition.

It should be noted that members of the COW in recent years have all been members on school community councils. Most of the previous COWs have included a member who was a special education teacher. Members come from various school sizes, geographic areas, islands, and role groups (including teachers, principals, classified staff, and community members). Participants on the COW have been expected to not limit their role on the committee to one of advocacy for any one segment of the school community or student population.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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February 12, 2016

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*

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Dr. Tammy Bopp

Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the military*

Ms. Deborah Cheeseman

Ms. Annette Cooper

Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
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Dr. Todd Takahashi

Dr. Daniel Ulrich

Dr. Amy Wiech

Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 2610 - Relating to Education

Dear Chair Kidani 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** SB 2610 that requires at least one member of the Committee on Weights to be a representative of the special education community.

SEAC has steadfastly supported that funding for special education staff positions be provided on a categorical basis, rather than trying to assign a weight to learners with such a diverse range of needs. Students with disabilities, like all students, do receive a baseline weight, however, and some may also have additional characteristics such as being economically disadvantaged or learning English as a second language that result in more funding to provide their supports. It is therefore critical that there be someone with special education expertise on the Committee on Weights to provide representation for this group. SEAC approves the suggestion that this representative might be a teacher or parent of disabled children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2610 on Feb 8, 2016 09:45AM*
Date: Saturday, February 06, 2016 3:38:39 PM

SB2610

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 8, 2016 09:45AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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