



LATE

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Corey Rosenlee  
President

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2610 - RELATING TO EDUCATION.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2610**, relating to education.

Special education services provide disabled students with academic, speech-language, psychological, physical and occupational, and counseling accommodations. Governed by the federal and state regulations, special education services are made available to eligible students ages 3 to 22 who demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction.

Yet, on statewide assessments, most of Hawaii's special needs students are performing below grade level in reading and mathematics. In the 2013-2014 academic year, only 22 percent were proficient in reading and 15 percent proficient in math. Moreover, between the 2004-2005 and 2013-2014 academic years, the achievement gap between special education students and their general education peers increased to 48.2 percent in reading and 48.8 percent in math, an approximate change of 10 percent in reading and 27 percent in math.

To boost performance, we must decrease the workload of special education teachers and provide additional funding for special needs classrooms. This can only be achieved, however, if special needs students are not viewed as homogenous, but instead as existing on a wide spectrum of capabilities and needs. Thus, if the state is to continue operating without a dedicated and differentiated funding formula for special education classrooms, we believe that Hawaii's weighted student formula



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must better account for the diversity of special education needs and, therefore, the committee on weights must include at least one special education teacher. We urge you to **only amend §302A-1303.5 with language incorporating a special education teacher into the committee on weights**, however, as parents of special needs students often lack experience in educational budgeting and classroom management, despite their tireless parental advocacy.

Because special needs children deserve every opportunity to succeed, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [burgharc@gmail.com](mailto:burgharc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2610 on Feb 8, 2016 09:45AM  
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**LATE**

**SB2610**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: OF course, why wouldn't there already be one?

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