



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

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March 3, 2014

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Ms. Cheryl Lupenui, Chair
Student Achievement Committee
Hawaii State Board of Education
P. O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: Item IV. D. Update/Discussion on process and timeline for review
of Board's proposed 100 policy series

Dear Chair Lupenui and Members of the Committee,

One of SEAC's functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is "to advise the Department of Education in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities." Given that the Board of Education sets educational policy in Hawaii, SEAC holds that it is imperative to provide input to your members when policies and administrative rules affecting students with disabilities are discussed.

Accordingly, SEAC provided testimony to this committee on January 20, 2015 requesting an opportunity for an in-depth discussion of the following "100 series" proposed policies and consideration of SEAC's rationale for further changes to the proposed drafts:

101.6 - Comprehensive Student Support System

105.12 - Special Education and Related Services

105.13 - Inclusion.

Subsequently your Committee categorized the latter two proposed policies as only needing minor edits. SEAC continues to seek an opportunity to discuss these two policies in greater detail, and we would appreciate guidance from your members on the proper venue for that discussion.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



Administrative Testimony
Testimony of Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, Ph.D
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer
Hawaiʻi State Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee

AGENDA ITEM IV C: Current request to renew and revise the Department of Education's Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver from No Child Left Behind

Malaki 3, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Room 404

The administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments relative to Agenda Item IV A (3).

On September 23, 2011, President Obama formally invited states to submit a Flexibility Waiver application from the No Child Left Behind Act. Hawaiʻi, through the State Department of Education (HIDOE), submitted a Flexibility Waiver application to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), which was approved on May 2013, and which the USDOE renewed through school year 2014-2015. Under the Flexibility Waiver granted, the HIDOE implemented the Strive HI system that applies to HIDOE schools and public charter schools. We understand that the HIDOE is planning to submit a Flexibility Waiver renewal application to the USDOE on March 31, 2015.

As part of the renewal effort, the HIDOE is reaching out to and seeking input from HIDOE schools, however, it is unclear whether Hawaiʻi public charter schools are included in these discussions. OHA therefore respectfully requests that discussions include Hawaiʻi public charter schools.

Moreover, Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian language immersion) schools, which include HIDOE and public charter schools, are subject to the Strive HI system. Some of these schools have a high opt out rate exercised by parents, due to their belief that the administered tests are inappropriate and do not accurately reflect academic achievement. Native American communities around the country, and indigenous communities throughout the world look to the groundbreaking Ka Papahana Kaiapuni and its progenitor, the internationally accredited ʻAha Pūnana Leo program, as language revitalization and culture models. Accordingly, OHA respectfully requests that the BOE and HIDOE consider adding general language to Hawaiʻi's Flexibility Waiver renewal application to address the issues relative to the assessments administered to Ka Papahana Kaiapuni students.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide comments on this agenda item.