



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
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December 8, 2008

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

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Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
Special Programs Committee
Board of Education
P. O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

RE: Proposed Revisions to Chapter 12

Dear Vice Chair Iwamoto and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) regarding the proposed revisions to Chapter 12, Compulsory Attendance Exceptions. The Council has made some inquiries since your November 10th meeting where the Department presented the proposed revisions. We are aware of at least a few families who are home schooling a child with a disability and utilizing the option of related services. We have also noted a degree of confusion in the field about whether schools are aware of their current responsibility to provide related services, where appropriate.

SEAC believes there may be instances where home schooling is the appropriate option for a child with a disability, given medical or behavioral issues. We are therefore concerned that the Board's removal of related services in the future could have a detrimental effect on some children and families. Part of our concern is the lack of hard data regarding the number of students that would be impacted by these changes. We request that the data be made available to SEAC and to other community groups, so that we may provide more accurate testimony.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair