



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education

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Written Testimony
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HB 1562: RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's College of Education supports the parts of HB 1562, and the overall intent of HB 1562.

Particularly, we support the change in terminology from "exceptional child" to "student with a disability," as it is clearer and more dispositive to this bill. Also, the qualifications for sign language interpreters are clear and reasonable. It is important that those providing interpretations are certified in interpretation, and not merely proficient in sign language, as interpretation is specialized and requires special skills.

However, the amendments to this bill may prove to be overbroad, and create expenditures for which no budget is allotted. For example, "Related Services" includes tremendously costly services, such as "medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes" and "parent counseling and training." I would argue that these services are beyond the scope of a public school facility. Providing what could be interpreted as specialized medical care and diagnosis through the school is not fiscally possible, nor is it logistically sound.

While the intent of this bill is admirable, we caution against overbroad definitions that will further adversely impact a school's financial responsibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.