

LATE

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR20 on Mar 14, 2016 13:25PM*
Date: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:04:50 PM

SR20

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for EDU on Mar 14, 2016 13:25PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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LATE

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Friday, March 18, 2016

1:15pm

Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 42

Senate Committee on Education (EDU):

Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

I am a coach and tutor of special needs children. I am also the daughter of a teacher at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind.

I am writing in strong support of SCR 42, which would encourage the Board of Education to include within the Committee of Weights at least one member to represent the special education community. This measure would help to provide a voice to a subset of Hawaii's student population that may require specific and perhaps additional learning resources.

Special needs students are in most, if not all public schools. They need support in the form of trained educators and appropriate teaching modules and therapies to learn and grow. The job of the Board of Education is to fulfill the needs of each individual child and to assess the varying degrees of accommodation required. Special needs students fall on a spectrum and they comprise a larger percentage of students than one might imagine.

Hawaii's special needs population need a voice, especially when it concerns the education of their children. With this bill, the Board of Education will have the unique perspective and interests of the special education community represented.

I urge you to pass SCR 42, and thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony.