Thank you for contacting me about your support for waiving IDEA special evaluation timelines in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L.116-136) provides authority to the Department of Education to grant waivers for certain accountability and reporting requirements. This provision is intended to give schools the maximum possible flexibility as they continue to serve their students during this public health crisis. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will provide a report to Congress by April 27, 2020, on waiver recommendations for the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). However, it will take an act of Congress to implement any recommendations for IDEA waivers.

This legislation also provides $30.7 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts, and institutions of higher education to assist with costs related to coronavirus. These funds will support schools as they develop plans for online learning for students, including students with disabilities and Native Hawaiian Education Programs.

While we still have more work to do, I want to assure you that help is on the way. I will do all that I can to ensure that Hawai‘i’s students are supported during this public health crisis. Mahalo again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHATZ
U.S. Senator

To respond to this message or comment on other issues, please visit my website and use the correspondence form at http://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact.