



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**FORUM HIGHLIGHTS NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES AT-RISK OR AFFECTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND
RELATED DEMENTIAS**

HONOLULU – Dementia is the progressive loss of brain function that occurs with certain neuropathological diseases or trauma and is often associated with aging. It is believed that about 6 percent of adults with an intellectual disability will be affected by some form of dementia after the age of 60. The impact of dementia increases for those individuals with Down syndrome with studies showing that at least 25 percent will be affected with dementia after age 40 and at least 50 to 70 percent will be affected with dementia after age 60.

The Developmental Disabilities Division of the Hawaii State Department of Health is sponsoring a forum on May 18 to discuss the U.S. strategy to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025; the inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease; and what can be done to support individuals with intellectual disabilities who are at-risk or are affected by dementia. Options to be discussed include the use of screening instruments, training for families and professionals, and home and community based services. The forum is free and open to those in the field of developmental disabilities and the field of aging as well as to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families/caregivers.

The event is sponsored in collaboration with Drs. Seth Keller and Matthew Janicki, the co-chairs of the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, and Dr. Laurel Coleman, of the Federal Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services.

Dr. Keller is a board certified neurologist with Advocare Neurology of South Jersey. He specializes in the evaluation and care of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with neurologic complications. Dr. Janicki is a research associate professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is currently leading a study of specialized group homes designed for dementia related care of adults with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Coleman is a geriatrician and a specialist in Alzheimer's disease. Before moving to Kauai last year, she worked in Maine for 20 years in settings where she did comprehensive evaluations for cognitive impairment and dementia. She now serves on the Governor's Advisory Council on the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and as the Kauai representative on the state advisory board for elder affairs.

The forum will be held at the Shriners Hospital for Children Auditorium from 5 to 7 p.m. Space is limited. An RSVP is required. Call 733-9197 by May 15.

More information about the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices can be found at <http://aadmd.org/NTG>

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