

MARCH



**Report to the Thirty Second Legislature**

**State of Hawaii 2023**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 333E-3(5) PREPARE AND  
SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE  
LEGISLATURE, AND ALL CONCERNED DEPARTMENT  
HEADS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE PLAN

**Prepared By:**

**State of Hawaii Department of Health**

**December 2022**

# HAWAII STATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Council is to empower, advocate, and support Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide to control their own destiny and determine the quality of life they desire.

## Vision Statement

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are equal to all persons and enjoy fundamental human rights, including life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. They have choices about where they live, work, learn, play, pursue their spiritual beliefs, are respected, and receive the supports they need.

## Implementation Statement

To this end, the Council will:

- Work for self-determination
- Advocate for systems change
- Provide information education, and planning
- Serve as a Conscience/monitor of the State
- Promote best practices

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# THE COUNCIL

State Councils were established in response to the federal *Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970* (PL 91-517). Hawai'i's Council was established in State Law by Act 198, Session Laws of Hawai'i, in 1975.

The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health (DoH). The department serves as the designated state agency, providing fiduciary and administrative support.

The Council engages in activities that change the system of services for people with developmental disabilities and conducts systems change, capacity building, and advocacy activities that...

- Provide training for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families including legislative advocacy, training on the legislative process, and leadership development.
- Demonstrate new approaches to services, supports, and assistance.
- Inform federal, state, and local policymakers.
- Foster interagency collaboration and coordination.
- Eliminate barriers and enhancing the design and redesign of systems.
- Develop and support coalitions.
- Educate the public
- Coordinate and support community activities that follow the Council's mission.

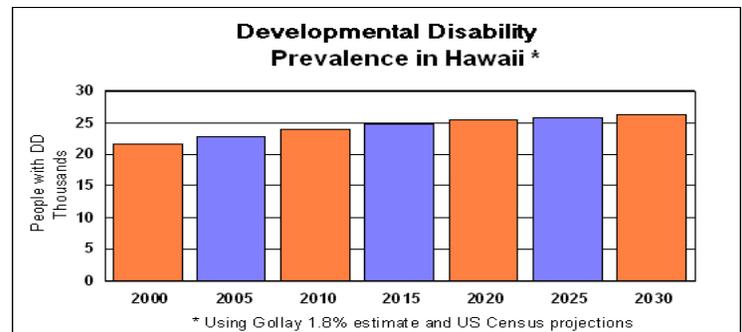
The Council, appointed by the Governor, is a group of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of Hawai'i's citizens with developmental disabilities. The philosophy of membership is that all key stakeholders are represented at the Council table: Individuals with developmental disabilities; their family members, advocates; representatives of state and private agencies who provide services; representatives of the Hawai'i Disability Rights Center (HDRC), the state's Protection and Advocacy agency; University of Hawai'i's Center on Disability Studies (CDS) and other key community interests. The beauty of this composition is in the skills and experience that each brings to the table and shares with other Council members.

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

[from PL 106-402, Sec. 102. Definitions, (8)]

**(A) IN GENERAL.** – The term "developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that ---

- (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely
- (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity
  - (I) Self-care.
  - (II) Receptive and expressive language.
  - (III) Learning.
  - (IV) Mobility.
  - (V) Self-direction.
  - (VI) Capacity for independent living.
  - (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and
  - (VIII) Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.



**(B) INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN** --- An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

## The Council supported the Self-Advocacy Network in becoming a non-profit organization

The State Legislature, through Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, appropriated funds to establish and support a statewide self-advocacy network for persons with developmental disabilities (DD). The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) is a group of self-advocate leaders with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are actively engaged in their community to address the concerns and needs of their peers throughout the State.

# QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

## Legislation

- Helped create and pass [HB1787/Act 308](#). This bill establishes Hawaii as an employment first state. Being an Employment First State means our state is dedicated to employing people with developmental disabilities and makes employment the first opportunity/service offered to individuals with disabilities of at a working age.
- Supported HB1752/Act 287. This bill limits who can discriminate against section 8 vouchers on advertising and helps bolster the Housing Choice program by adding additional incentives and clarity to the voucher program.
- Supported and helped implement [Hawai'i Achieving a Better Life Experience \(ABLE\) Act of 2014](#). The program launched on November 1, 2021. Our ABLE program is fully up and running; anyone who qualifies for an account can now open one.
- Supported HB986 (Act 36)/HB987 (Act 37). These two bills together both tackle newborn hearing/vision screenings. These bills improve the data collection and reporting surrounding newborn hearing/vision screenings and the data collected by screenings done at public schools.
- Supported HB1600/Act 248 and was a part of the Oral Health Coalition's effort to reinstate adult Medicaid dental benefits.

## Legislative Forums

- Held four legislative forums covering Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii counties in October. These forums are for the public to hear from their legislatures and future legislatures regarding issues that face our intellectual/developmental disability family.

## Legislative Meetings

- Invited all legislatures to meet with us, our stakeholders, and our self-advocates (individuals with disabilities who practice leadership skills and speak out for themselves). We meet with 32 legislators in the month of December, sharing with them our priorities and lending ourselves as a resource to them.



## Day at the Capitol

- In March, our annual Day at the Capitol Event (virtually) connected our stakeholders and community to hear from their legislators and learn more about our legislative process.

- Created a Working Group to look into Guardianship reform through a Uniform Law.

## COVID-19 Efforts

- Hosted a film-festival that focused on films that related to disabilities either through who worked on the film or the films content. At this film festival, we played our COVID PSA commercial as a pre-film educational commercial.
- We created a COVID PSA in which we covered how to use special COVID-19 tests designed for individuals with particular needs. These tests are made specifically for blind individuals and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## Current Council Members

Chair: John Bebee  
 Vice Chair: Victoria Murry  
 Secretary: Timothy Renken

Philip Ana  
 Michelle Arakawa  
 Kevin Bardsley-Marcial  
 Maureen Bates  
 Mary Brogan  
 Amara Coon  
 Bathey Fong  
 Melissa Gibo  
 Howard Greenberg  
 Josh Ige

Debbie Kobayakawa  
 Shana Metsch  
 Michelle Muralt  
 Darwin Nagamine  
 Alana Souza  
 Kirko Takahashi  
 Reinalyn Terrado  
 Santo Triolo  
 Mark Vierra  
 R. Jackson Whitaker

# THE COUNCIL AREAS OF EMPHASIS

## Community Supports

- Enhancing residential placements within communities by avoiding the placement of individuals with developmental disabilities into institutions.
- Promoted collaboration with parent groups to identify residential needs throughout the state.
- Continue to work with County transportation coordinators statewide to assure bus routes are meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities so they can utilize generic services to access their community.
- Educated Legislators, City and County Council members, and Mayors about transportation and housing needs of individuals with disabilities.
- Worked with Rural Health Association to assist in getting individuals intellectual and or developmental disabilities psychiatry services
- Worked with the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness regarding Housing legislation as well as how to address our populations housing needs.
- Joined the Hawai'i Housing Affordability Coalition (HiHAC)

## Public Awareness, Education, and Training

- Created public awareness campaign to promote Developmental Disabilities and

Disability Employment Awareness month.

- Created promotional and educational tools for COVID-19 vaccinations as well as COVID-19 safety tips.
- Created promotional tools and spread public awareness surrounding Developmental Disabilities Month in March. Our theme this year was “Respect others and all people with disabilities”.
- Healthy Relationships. We provide trainings on sexuality and how to have healthy relationships for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have six certified trainers.

## **Transition and Employment**

- Collaborated with Department of Human Services/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Department of Health/Adult Mental Health Division, Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations/Work Force Development Division, University of Hawaii/Center on Disability Studies, Office of the Governor, Department of Community Services City and County of Honolulu, U.S. Dept. of Labor -Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and private agencies to create activities to support students and young adults with disabilities with getting a job and earning competitive wages; such as supporting job fairs, informational venues such as Footsteps to Transition Fair, neighbor island employer outreach programs for over 200 individuals.
- Educated public and private agencies on Customized Employment.
- Collaborated monthly with Department of Human Services/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Health/Adult Mental Health Division, Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations/Work Force Development Division, University of Hawaii/Center on Disability Studies, Children Adolescent Mental Health Division, to revise and approve the Cooperative Agreement Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program which expired October 26, 2021. It will now continue through 09/30/2026.
- Educated self-advocates, family members, and public and private agencies on Employment First and the need to increase access to information on employment, education, training, and support services needed to prepare persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the transition to employment
- Continue to support the Project SEARCH initiative by holding the contracts so the project can continue throughout the states.
- Facilitated monthly with our sister agencies; Center on Disability Studies and Hawaii

Disability Rights Center, quarterly transition meetings with over a combined 200 professionals from Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and Department of Education, and Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division to break down silos, promote collaboration, share resources, and promote awareness of disability-related barriers and solutions to continued employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Facilitated over fifty advocates, private and public agencies to meet with Hawaii state legislators during the annual Day at the Capitol on Zoom.
- Worked with self-advocates to assist them to continue to develop their leaderships skills by being co-hosts for Day at the Capitol on Zoom.
- Continued to share information about the creation of the Hawaii ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account program collaboration with the State of Oregon.
- Continued to host annual Hawaii Island Disability Legislative Forums to promote employment and to educate state and county policy makers and the community on the importance of having increased access to employment services and supports and information on transition services and supports needed to prepare students for transition to adult life on Zoom.
- Worked with self-advocates to assist them to continue to develop their leaderships skills by being co-hosts for the Hawaii Island Disability Legislative Forums.
- Continued to collaborate to ensure that legislation is passes to change procurement laws to abolish the payment of sub-minimum wage based solely based on a person's disability.
- Facilitated monthly meetings of Hawaii Employment First between Department of Humans Resources/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division, Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations /Work Force Development Division, University of Hawaii/Center on Disability Studies, Department of Education, and Department of Community Services City and County of Honolulu Employment First activities to elevate employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.
- Supported self-advocates to become self-employed by participating in civic engagement at the Kauai Ohana Resource Kiosk
- Promoted Employment Awareness Month. Each county declared October to be Developmental Disabilities Employment awareness month and on Kauai we honored our Employee of the year who got to meet with Mayor Kawakami.
- Created a work-pipeline pilot project program to create Registered

Behavioral Technician (RBT). The project will fund 10 high school students to take community college classes and finish the qualification test to become an RBT. Students will graduate high school ready to be an RBT.

- Received the Bridging and Aging and I/DD Grant. Through this grant we are creating internship opportunities for high school students to intern at a Adult Day Health Program. The goal is to bolster our direct support workers in the disability field.

## Health & Children & Youth

- Continued work with the Assistive Technology Resource Center to provide devices to toddlers to help with their communication needs rather than purchasing expensive communication devices through Medicaid or other insurance carriers.
- Educating legislatures and community members on the need to improve of oral health for children and adults.
- Continued to work on promoting universal standardized developmental screening.
- Joined the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Task-Group
- Co-Chair the Kauai Community Children's Council
- Joined the Keiki Oral Health Coalition

## Self-Advocacy & Self-Determination

- The Council supports the Hawaii Self Advocate Advisory Council (SAAC) in maintaining over 200 members statewide.
- Held train-the-trainer events; All about My Empowerment, person centered planning.
- Supporting self-advocates to join community groups and boards, promoting "Nothing About Me Without Me."
- Supported 4 self-advocates to be self-employed by being Feeling Safe Being Safe (FSBD) trainers teaching public and private agencies, offices, schools on the importance of emergency preparedness.
- Completed four FSBS training sessions online 2020-2021 and one Florida DD Council Summit presentation.
- COVID-19 support through Weekly online Zoom Meetings since March 2020, neighbor island hand sanitizer and Protective Mask distribution.
- 3 SAAC members participate as panelist in the 2022 Legislative Forums on Kaua'i, West Hawai'i, and East Hawai'i
- 6 SAAC Participants aided in the delivery of 216 meals to individuals with disabilities through the Expanded Meal Service Delivery program from the Honolulu City and County, Elderly Affairs Division CARES Act funding.
- SAAC Collaboration with Assistive Technology Resource Center for distribution of iPads and computers devices to 26 qualified persons with disabilities.
- 6 SAAC members continued collaboration with the Honolulu Zoo Shredding program to provide bedding for the animals.

- SAAC collaboration and support to the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, assuring individuals with High School Students with disabilities were a part of the summit. They provided the Keiki Caucus with legislative priorities.
- 2 SAAC members provided presentations to the Footsteps to Transition meetings
- 2 SAAC members provided presentations to the DOE Quarterly Transition meetings.
- 12 SAAC members participated in the Center for Disability Studies project called "Make Art Change Lives" program.
- 178 SAAC members participated in the Annual Day at the Capitol event, 2021
- 3 SAAC members participated in the Guide to Healthy Living project and collaborates with the DD division to provide support
- 2 SAAC members provides input to the Maui commission on disabilities board.
- 6 SAAC members participated in distributing vegetable boxes to over 80 families across Kauai for 6 weeks.
- 17 SAAC members provided testimony on the sub minimum wage and anti-bullying bills.
- 4 SAAC members participated in DD Division Workgroups to provide feedback on ways to enhance their case manager training
- Supports and funds a working Kiosk where 3 SAAC members can learn employment skills that help them transition integrated employment settings.
- With 14 SAAC members we held a Hawaiian culture hour where SAAC members learned Hula

## THE COUNCIL OFFICES & CONTACT INFORMATION

### Legal Authority

State Councils were established in response to the Federal *Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970 (PL 91-517)*. Hawaii's Council was established in State Law by Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii in 1975. The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health. The Department serves as the Designated State Agency, providing fiduciary and administrative support. Although the Council operates in the state government, their federal law stipulates a non-interference law that allows the Council to maintain its autonomy, distinct independent role and responsibility

### Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities Office Address:

1010 Richards Street, Room 122, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 586-8100

FAX: (808) 586-7543

### Neighbor Islands

Call Oahu toll-free:

Hawaii Island: (808) 974-4000, x68100  
Kauai: (808) 274-3141, x68100  
Maui: (808) 984-2400, x68100  
Molokai, Lanai: 1-800-468-4644, x68100

## **Office Staff**

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Julia Althoff, Program Specialist

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