



Report to the Thirty Second Legislature

State of Hawaii 2021

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

October 2021

HAWAII STATE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL 2021 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 basic human rights, among them 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 which 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.

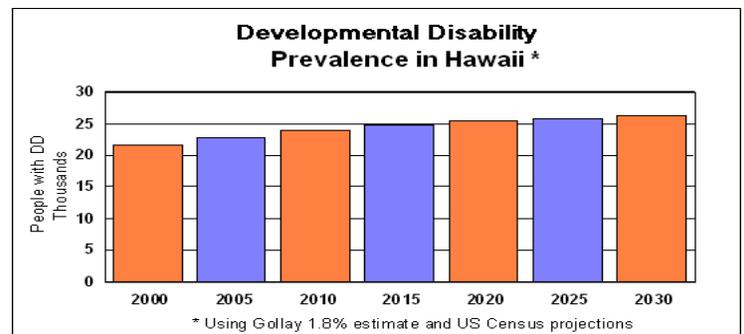
The Council, appointed by the Governor, is a group of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of Hawai'i's citizens with developmental disabilities. The philosophy of membership is that all key stakeholders are represented at the Council table: Individuals with developmental disabilities; their 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 SB793/Act 55 regarding Sub-minimum wage. This bill eliminated the ability within the State of Hawai'i to pay an individual with a disability below the state's minimum wage.
- Ticket to Work Medicaid Income Disregard Act of 2019. The program went into effect in January of 2021 and allows individuals on SSI and Medicaid to earn up to 138% of the federal poverty level (roughly \$5,000 a month). This program will enable individuals with disabilities that need Medicaid services to be able to qualify for those services and be able to contribute to the workforce.
- Supported and helped implement Hawai'i Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014. The program is launching on November 1, 2021. ABLE Accounts give people with disabilities receiving government benefits and their families a financial tool to put money aside for purchases to enhance quality of life without risking the loss of those benefits (like SSI and Medicaid).

COVID-19 Efforts

- Advocated for representation of individuals with Intellectual and or developmental disabilities to receive their vaccine's and be incorporated in the State of Hawai'i's economic recovery plan
- Created a pro-vaccine video with the help of SAAC members to show the need to protect others within your community, especially those with health risks.
- Kept our community updated on where and how to get vaccinated
- Educated our advocates and community members on safe COVID-19 behaviors
- Created a video regarding why vaccines are important for Keiki and Kupuna. Our national agency gave this video to the white house to promote vaccinations nationwide.

Current Council Members

Philip Ana	Michelle Arakawa
Maureen Bates	Timothy Renken
Bathey Fong	Jane Preece
Catherine Sorensen	Dr. Kirko Takahashi
Jacqueline Indreginal	Michelle Muralt
Santo Triolo	Kevin Bardsley-Marcial
John Beebe	Debbie Kobayakawa
Shana Metsch	Josh Ige
Mary Brogan	Liza Yogi
Melissa Gibo	Victoria Murray
Maile Mathews-Perez	
Amara Coon	
Darwin Nagamine	
Robert "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 the Kauai Bus to find out why people prefer paratransit over fixed route services
- Worked with Rural Health Association to assist in getting individuals intellectual and or developmental disabilities psychiatry services

Public Awareness, Education, and Training

- Created public awareness campaign to promote Developmental Disabilities and Disability Employment Awareness month.
- Collaborated with the Executive Office on Aging, creating educational material for the elderly and individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers on protecting yourself from COVID.
- Created and promoted vaccine awareness questions and answers for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

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 set to expire October 26, 2021.
- 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 leadership 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 leadership skills by being co-hosts for the Hawaii Island Disability Legislative Forums.
- Continued to collaborate to ensure that legislation is passed 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 Human 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

Children & Youth & Health

- 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 oral health for children and adults.
- Continued to work on promoting universal standardized developmental screening.

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 the self-advocates to be self-employed by being Feeling Safe Being Safe 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.
- SAAC members participate as panelist in the 2021 Legislative Forums on Kaua'i, West Hawai'i, and East Hawai'i
- 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 qualified persons with disabilities.
- 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, which provides the Keiki Caucus with legislative priorities.
- SAAC provided presentations to the Footsteps to Transition meetings
- SAAC provided presentations to the DOE Quarterly Transition meetings.
- SAAC participated in the Center for Disability Studies project called "Make Art Change Lives" program.
- SAAC participated in the Annual Day at the Capitol event, 2021
- SAAC participated in the Guide to Healthy Living project and collaborates with the DD division to provide support
- SAAC members provides input to the Maui commission on disabilities board.
- SAAC members participated in distributing vegetable boxes to over 80 families across Kauai for 6 weeks.
- SAAC members provided testimony on the sub minimum wage and anti-bullying bills.
- SAAC members participated in DD Division Workgroups to provide feedback on ways to enhance their case manager training
- With 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

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Neighbor Islands

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Maui: 984-2400, x68100

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