JOSH GREEN, M.D.

SYLVIA LUKE



JAMES LABRIE CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS

## STATE OF HAWAI'I KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES 'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Promoting the ABLE in Capable: 100 ABLE Accounts Established in Hawai'i

HONOLULU - The 100-account mark is only the beginning, as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, with support from the State Department of Budget and Finance (B&F), strives to increase the number of ABLE accounts.

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities, a disability service and support organization, and B&F revel in the confirmation of 100 ABLE accounts as of August 2023. Simply said, 100 ABLE accounts equate to 100 individuals with disabilities who can save money without fear of losing state or federal benefits.

"ABLE accounts are beyond mere checking and savings services," said Governor Josh Green, M.D. "These accounts offer a person with disabilities the opportunity to engage in the present and prepare for a brighter future."

ABLE stands for achieving a better life experience, a fitting name for a service that supports its target population in doing so. The online account was created to allow people with disabilities to save up to \$17,000 a year for eligible present and future expenses such as housing, transportation, education and more. Prior to ABLE accounts, those with disabilities solely depended on their services and benefits with little-to-no money to save or spend.

The creation and implementation of ABLE accounts is a service from which the council hopes individuals with disabilities statewide can benefit. Taking lead on these efforts, was Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive Administrator Daintry Bartoldus.

"The council is here to help," said Bartoldus. "If you have any questions, concerns or think that it's too good to be true, call or email our office. We're glad to provide more information because where there is ABLE, one can achieve a better life experience."

For more information on Hawaiii's ABLE accounts, please visit the following website: <a href="https://hawaiiablesavings.com/">https://hawaiiablesavings.com/</a> or contact the State Council on Developmental Disabilities by phone at 808-586-8100 or email through <a href="historia">hiscod@doh.hawaii.gov</a>

About the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities:

The function of the DD Council is to provide advocacy, quality assurance, capacity building, and systems change activities on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities.

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