



GOV. MSG. NO. 1115

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

✓ The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on April 19, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

SB313

RELATING TO THE STATE REHABILITATION
COUNCIL.
ACT 015

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on APR 19 2023

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 313

JAN 19 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 348-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§348-8 State rehabilitation council.** (a) There is
4 established within the department a state rehabilitation
5 council. The council shall consist of [~~twenty one~~] fifteen
6 members appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34
7 and without regard to section 78-4. The members shall include:

8 (1) At least one representative of a parent training and
9 information center;

10 (2) At least one representative of the client assistance
11 program;

12 (3) At least one qualified vocational rehabilitation
13 counselor with knowledge of and experience with
14 vocational rehabilitation programs, who shall serve as
15 an ex officio, nonvoting member if employed by the
16 vocational rehabilitation division of the department;



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- 1 (4) At least one representative of community
2 rehabilitation program service providers;
- 3 (5) Four representatives of business, industry, and labor;
- 4 (6) Representatives of disability advocacy groups
5 representing a cross section of individuals with
6 physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities,
7 and parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or
8 authorized representatives of individuals with
9 disabilities who have difficulty in representing
10 themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to
11 represent themselves;
- 12 (7) Current or former applicants for or recipients of
13 vocational rehabilitation services;
- 14 (8) At least one representative of the state educational
15 agency responsible for the public education of
16 students with disabilities;
- 17 (9) At least one representative of the state workforce
18 development council; and
- 19 (10) The administrator of the vocational rehabilitation
20 division of the department, who shall be an ex
21 officio, nonvoting member;



1 provided that the council shall include at least one member from
2 each county; and provided further that a majority of the council
3 members shall be persons who have disabilities and are not
4 employed by the vocational rehabilitation division of the
5 department. The council members shall elect a chairperson from
6 the membership. Each member of the council shall serve a three-
7 year term but may not serve more than two consecutive full
8 terms [-]; provided that the member representing the client
9 assistance program shall not be subject to term limits.

10 (b) Any vacancy occurring in the council membership shall
11 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except
12 that the governor may delegate the authority to fill [such] a
13 vacancy to the remaining members of the council after making the
14 original appointment. Any vacancy on the council shall not
15 impair the authority of the remaining members to establish
16 quorum by a simple majority of the remaining members and to
17 exercise all the powers of the council.

18 [~~(b)~~] (c) The council members shall serve without
19 compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,
20 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
21 their duties.



1 [~~(e)~~] (d) The council, after consulting with the state
2 workforce development council, shall advise the vocational
3 rehabilitation division of the department on eligibility, order
4 of selection, extent, scope, and effectiveness of services
5 provided, and performance of state agencies that affect or that
6 potentially affect the ability of individuals with disabilities
7 in achieving employment outcomes. The council shall develop,
8 agree to, and review state goals and priorities, advise the
9 vocational rehabilitation division of the department regarding
10 authorized activities, and assist in the preparation of the
11 state plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports,
12 needs assessment, and evaluations. The council shall conduct a
13 review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer
14 satisfaction with, the performance by the vocational
15 rehabilitation division of the department, vocational
16 rehabilitation services provided by state agencies, and other
17 public and private entities, and employment outcomes achieved by
18 eligible individuals receiving services, including the
19 availability of health and other employment benefits in
20 connection with employment outcomes. The council shall prepare
21 and submit an annual report to the governor on the status of



1 vocational rehabilitation programs within the State and make the
2 report available to the public.

3 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The council shall coordinate with other councils
4 within the State including the state council on developmental
5 disabilities, the state council on mental health, the advisory
6 panel of individuals with disabilities in education, and the
7 state workforce development council. The council shall
8 establish working relationships between the vocational
9 rehabilitation division of the department and other councils and
10 coordinate other functions as deemed appropriate under federal
11 law.

12 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) If there is a disagreement between the council
13 and the vocational rehabilitation division of the department,
14 the disagreement shall be resolved by the governor."

15 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

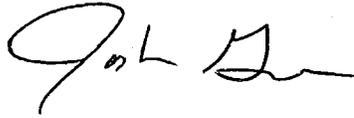
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INTRODUCED BY:



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APPROVED this 19th day of April, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James I. Ho", is written over the printed name of the Governor.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: March 7, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

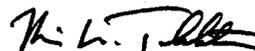
**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: **MAR 30 2023**
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.



Speaker, House of Representatives



Clerk, House of Representatives