
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISABILITY HEALTH DISPARITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that adults having
2 developmental or intellectual disabilities experience
3 disproportionate health disparities when compared to persons
4 without disabilities. Compared to their non-disabled peers,
5 persons having developmental or intellectual disabilities are
6 more likely to experience fair or poor health, obesity, and
7 diabetes.

8 Decades of research has clearly established that, in the
9 United States, people in minority groups often receive poor
10 health care and have poor health outcomes resulting from social
11 determinants of health. On a national level, racial and ethnic
12 disparities in access to health care and health outcomes are a
13 persistent, pervasive public health problem. However, less is
14 known about the extent of racial and ethnic health disparities
15 among adults having developmental or intellectual disabilities.

16 The legislature further finds that troubling gaps exist in
17 data regarding the health disparities experienced by persons in



1 the State having developmental or intellectual disabilities, and
2 data regarding their social determinants of health. Further
3 research is needed to address these gaps. This research will
4 help Hawaii provide culturally appropriate health care, address
5 barriers to health care access, reduce health disparities, and
6 support individuals having developmental or intellectual
7 disabilities in their efforts to live healthy lives in the
8 community.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
10 state council on developmental disabilities to study the health
11 disparities experienced by persons in the State having
12 developmental or intellectual disabilities.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The state council on developmental
14 disabilities shall submit to the legislature no later than
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
16 2025, a report focused on the health disparities experienced by
17 persons in the State having developmental or intellectual
18 disabilities. The report shall include:

19 (1) A definition of the State's developmental or
20 intellectual disability population for public health
21 administration purposes, including the health



1 conditions, duration, and level of severity required
2 to qualify for disability status;

3 (2) A definition of the social determinants of health as
4 used by the United States Department of Health and
5 Human Services;

6 (3) Population-level differences in health indicators and
7 social determinants of health between persons in the
8 State having and not having developmental or
9 intellectual disabilities, including:

10 (A) Social determinants of health and health
11 outcomes, including household income, employment
12 status, education level, access to health
13 information technology tools and systems, access
14 to transportation, and social and community
15 environment;

16 (B) Other indicators and determinants that contribute
17 to an individual's physical and mental health;

18 (C) Prevalence of intellectual or developmental
19 disabilities based on zip code;

20 (D) Ethnicity breakdown based on zip code; and



- 1 (E) Whether persons having intellectual or
- 2 developmental disabilities experience worse
- 3 health outcomes than their non-disabled peers;
- 4 (4) Any other information that would assist the State in
- 5 determining safe, equitable, and culturally
- 6 appropriate public health actions to improve health
- 7 care and address the health disparities experienced by
- 8 persons in the State having developmental or
- 9 intellectual disabilities; and
- 10 (5) Any proposed legislation, including best practices,
- 11 for the State to reduce the health disparities
- 12 experienced by persons in the State having
- 13 developmental or intellectual disabilities.

14 (b) For purposes of this Act, "health disparities" means

15 population-level differences in health outcomes that are related

16 to a history of social, economic, or environmental disadvantages

17 that are avoidable and not primarily caused by the underlying

18 health conditions that led to the disability.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the

1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2024-2025 for the state council on developmental disabilities to
3 compile and submit a report focused on the health disparities
4 experienced by persons in the State having developmental or
5 intellectual disabilities to the legislature prior to the
6 convening of the regular session of 2025.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of health for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
10 2050.



Report Title:

Disabled Individuals; Developmental Disabilities; Intellectual Disabilities; Health Disparities; Health Equity; State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to submit a report focused on the health disparities experienced by persons in the State having developmental or intellectual disabilities to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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