

JAN 20 2023

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 with
2 developmental or intellectual disabilities experience
3 disproportionate health disparities compared to those without
4 disabilities. When compared to their non-disabled peers,
5 individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities are
6 more likely to have fair or poor health, obesity, and diabetes.

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

15 The legislature further finds troubling gaps in the health
16 disparities of people with developmental or intellectual
17 disabilities and their social determinants of health in the



1 State. Further research is needed to understand the health
2 disparities of people with developmental or intellectual
3 disabilities and their social determinants of health. This will
4 help Hawai'i provide culturally appropriate health care, address
5 barriers to health care access, reduce health disparities, and
6 support individuals with developmental or intellectual
7 disabilities live healthy lives in the community.

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

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

- 18 (1) A definition of the State's developmental or
19 intellectual disability population for public health
20 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 the State between
7 individuals with and without developmental or
8 intellectual disabilities on health indicators and
9 social determinants of health, including:

10 (A) Access to necessary health care;

11 (B) Access to preventive health care, including
12 wellness programs and emotional support services;

13 (C) Health behaviors, including the percentage of
14 individuals who engage in physical activities or
15 smoke cigarettes;

16 (D) Health status and outcomes, including the
17 percentage of individuals who are considered
18 obese or diagnosed with chronic diseases,
19 including diabetes, hypertension, and
20 cardiovascular diseases;



- 1 (E) Emergency preparedness, including evacuation
- 2 planning and ability;
- 3 (F) Health insurance coverage;
- 4 (G) Social determinants of health and health
- 5 outcomes, including household income, employment
- 6 status, education level, access to health
- 7 information technology tools and systems, access
- 8 to transportation, and social and community
- 9 environment; and
- 10 (H) Other indicators and determinants that contribute
- 11 to an individual's physical and mental health;
- 12 (4) Factors contributing to the population-level
- 13 differences, including economic and social
- 14 disadvantages and discrimination;
- 15 (5) A determination of the population-level differences
- 16 and contributing factors that are preventable or
- 17 avoidable;
- 18 (6) Any other information that would assist the State in
- 19 determining safe, equitable, and culturally
- 20 appropriate public health actions that would improve
- 21 health care and address the health disparities



1 experienced by individuals in the State with
2 developmental or intellectual disabilities; and
3 (7) Proposed legislation, including best practices, for
4 the State to reduce the health disparities experienced
5 by individuals in the State with developmental or
6 intellectual disabilities.

7 (b) For purposes of this Act, "health disparities" means
8 population-level differences in health outcomes that are related
9 to a history of social, economic, or environmental disadvantages
10 that are avoidable and not primarily caused by underlying health
11 conditions that led to the disability.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2024-2025 for the state council on developmental disabilities to
17 compile and submit a report focused on the health disparities
18 experienced by individuals with developmental or intellectual
19 disabilities in the State to the legislature prior to the
20 convening of the regular session of 2025.



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

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keen", is written over a horizontal line.



S.B. NO. 755

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 individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities in the State to the Legislature prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. Appropriates funds.

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