
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 when compared to persons
4 without disabilities. Compared to their non-disabled peers,
5 persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities are more
6 likely to experience fair or poor health, obesity, and diabetes.

7 Decades of research has clearly established that in the
8 United States, people in minority groups often receive poor
9 health 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 that troubling gaps exist in
16 data regarding the health disparities experienced by persons in
17 the State with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and



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

12 SECTION 2. (a) The state council on developmental
13 disabilities shall submit a report focused on the health
14 disparities experienced by persons in the State with
15 developmental or intellectual disabilities to the legislature no
16 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
17 session of 2025. 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 health indicators and
7 social determinants of health between persons in the
8 State with developmental or intellectual disabilities
9 and those without, 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 with 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 with 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 with developmental
13 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
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and

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

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 June 30, 3000.



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 to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025 focused on the health disparities experienced by persons in the State with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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