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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO PROVIDING  
CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS  
FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND CARE  
PROVIDERS.

1           WHEREAS, the State has committed to improving the quality  
2 of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental  
3 disabilities, necessitating the provision of relief to families  
4 and care providers; and

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6           WHEREAS, the State continues to develop and identify the  
7 scope of adequate address for the needs of individuals with  
8 intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families  
9 and care providers, evidencing the ongoing need for continued  
10 support; and

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12           WHEREAS, intellectual and developmental disabilities are  
13 often lifelong disabilities and differences that may involve  
14 challenges that affect intellectual functioning and adaptive  
15 functioning, or a person's ability to learn, reason,  
16 communicate, socialize, or perform self-care tasks; and

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18           WHEREAS, developmental disabilities, which include  
19 intellectual disabilities, are a broad group of conditions that  
20 may involve an impairment in physical, learning, cognitive,  
21 language and communication, or behavior areas; and

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23           WHEREAS, the term "intellectual and developmental  
24 disabilities" was established and is continuously used to be  
25 encompassing and far-reaching in its inclusivity, expressing the  
26 community's diversity and recognizing individuals' unique  
27 strengths, challenges, needs, and experiences; and  
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1 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental  
2 disabilities are beautiful and amazing, and the true extent of  
3 their cognitive abilities is not accurately reflected by  
4 measures of intelligence, as there are seemingly infinite ways  
5 that individuals learn or express themselves; and

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7 WHEREAS, the intricate tapestry of humanity reveals that  
8 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are  
9 unique in their own right, each person like all people, a  
10 singular masterpiece, and the notion of a standardized,  
11 universally applicable approach to support services is  
12 insufficient to fully appreciate and provide appropriate support  
13 for individuals' inherent uniqueness; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, it is this body's unwavering commitment to honor  
16 the intrinsic individuality of every person with an intellectual  
17 and developmental disability; engage in a collaborative process  
18 to identify their unique and personal needs; and develop and  
19 provide services, programs, and resources that not only uphold  
20 their dignity and active inclusion as valued members of the  
21 State's communities but also nurture their potential and  
22 safeguard their well-being; and

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24 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental  
25 disabilities have an inherent right to immerse themselves in  
26 their cultural identities, necessitating the provision of  
27 culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive services,  
28 programs, and resources as essential to the adequacy of support  
29 and inclusivity; and

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31 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental  
32 disabilities and their families and care providers require  
33 equitable resources and support, commensurate with their socio-  
34 economic standing, to endure in their everyday lives; and

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36 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon society to protect and  
37 provide for the most vulnerable members of society in ensuring  
38 that all people have equitable opportunities and access to  
39 thrive; and

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41 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among  
42 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,



1 while also facing disproportionate underdiagnosis, indicating  
2 systemic disparities and increased vulnerabilities; and  
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4 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian family-based and  
5 communal structures established systems of effective care for  
6 individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members  
7 of society; and  
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9 WHEREAS, these traditional family-based and communal  
10 structures were dismantled and are further discontinued by  
11 unresolved historical injustice; now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that pertinent state  
16 agencies are urged to commit to providing culturally appropriate  
17 resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian  
18 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and  
19 their families and care providers; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;  
23 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director  
24 of Health; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
25 Tourism; Director of Human Services; Chairperson of the Board of  
26 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Chairperson of the  
27 Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; President of  
28 the University of Hawaii System; and Chairperson of the State  
29 Council on Developmental Disabilities.

