
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State has committed to improving the quality
2 of life of individuals experiencing intellectual and
3 developmental disabilities, necessitating the provision of
4 relief to families 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,
8 families, and care providers experiencing intellectual and
9 developmental disabilities, evidencing the ongoing need for
10 continued 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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29 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
30 disabilities are beautiful and amazing, and the true extent of



1 their cognitive abilities is not accurately reflected by
2 measures of intelligence, as there are seemingly infinite ways
3 that individuals learn or express themselves; and

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

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

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

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

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34 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon society to protect and
35 provide for our most vulnerable in ensuring that all people have
36 equitable opportunities and access to thrive; and

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38 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among
39 individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental
40 disabilities, while also facing disproportionate underdiagnosis,
41 indicating systemic disparities and increased vulnerabilities;
42 and



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2 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian family-based and
3 communal structures established systems of effective care for
4 individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members
5 of society; and

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7 WHEREAS, these traditional family-based and communal
8 structures were dismantled and are furthered by unresolved
9 historical injustice; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and this
14 body are urged to commit to providing culturally appropriate
15 resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian
16 individuals and families experiencing intellectual and
17 developmental disabilities; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor;
21 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
22 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
23 Affairs; Director of Health; Chairperson of the State Council on
24 Developmental Disabilities; Chairperson of the Board of
25 Education; Superintendent of Education; Director of Human
26 Services; President of the University of Hawaii System; and
27 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

