
SENATE 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
31 their cognitive abilities is not accurately reflected by



1 measures of intelligence, as there are seemingly infinite ways
2 that individuals learn or express themselves; and
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4 WHEREAS, the intricate tapestry of humanity reveals that
5 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are
6 unique in their own right, each person like all people, a
7 singular masterpiece, and the notion of a standardized,
8 universally applicable approach to support services is
9 insufficient to fully appreciate and provide appropriate support
10 for individuals' inherent uniqueness; and
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12 WHEREAS, it is our unwavering commitment to honor the
13 intrinsic individuality of every person with an intellectual and
14 developmental disability, engaging in a collaborative process to
15 identify their unique and personal needs, and to develop and to
16 provide services, programs, and resources that not only uphold
17 their dignity and active inclusion as valued members of our
18 communities but also nurture their potential and safeguard their
19 well-being; and
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21 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
22 disabilities have an inherent right to immerse themselves in
23 their cultural identities, necessitating the provision of
24 culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive services,
25 programs, and resources as essential to the adequacy of support
26 and inclusivity; and
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28 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
29 disabilities and their families and care providers require
30 equitable resources and support, commensurate with their socio-
31 economic standing, to endure in their everyday lives; and
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33 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon society to protect and
34 provide for our most vulnerable in ensuring that all people have
35 equitable opportunities and access to thrive; and
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37 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among
38 individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental
39 disabilities, while also facing disproportionate underdiagnosis,
40 indicating systemic disparities and increased vulnerabilities;
41 and
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1 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian family-based and
2 communal structures established systems of effective care for
3 individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members
4 of society; and

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

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

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

