

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-first State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-first State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the

"Hawaii State Development Disabilities Council 2020 Annual Report on Implementation of the State Plan," pursuant to Chapter 333E-3(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) In accordance with Section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/departments-of-health-reports-to-2021-legislature/>

Sincerely,

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

Elizabeth A. Char, M.D.  
Director of Health

Enclosures

c: Legislative Reference Bureau  
Hawaii State Library (2)  
Hamilton Library

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**

**STATE OF HAWAII**

**2020**

**PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 333E-3(5) PREPARE AND SUBMIT REPORTS TO  
THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, AND ALL CONCERNED  
DEPARTMENT HEADS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE PLAN**

**PREPARED BY:**

**STATE OF HAWAII**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**December 2020**

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Council is to empower, advocate, and support Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities statewide to control their own destiny and determine the quality of life they desire.

## Vision Statement

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are equal to all persons and enjoy basic human rights, among them life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. They have choices about where they live, work, learn, play, pursue their spiritual beliefs, are respected and receive the supports they need.

## Implementation Statement

To this end, the Council will:

- work for self-determination;
- advocate for systems change;
- provide information, education, and planning;
- serve as conscience/monitor of the State; and
- promote best practices.

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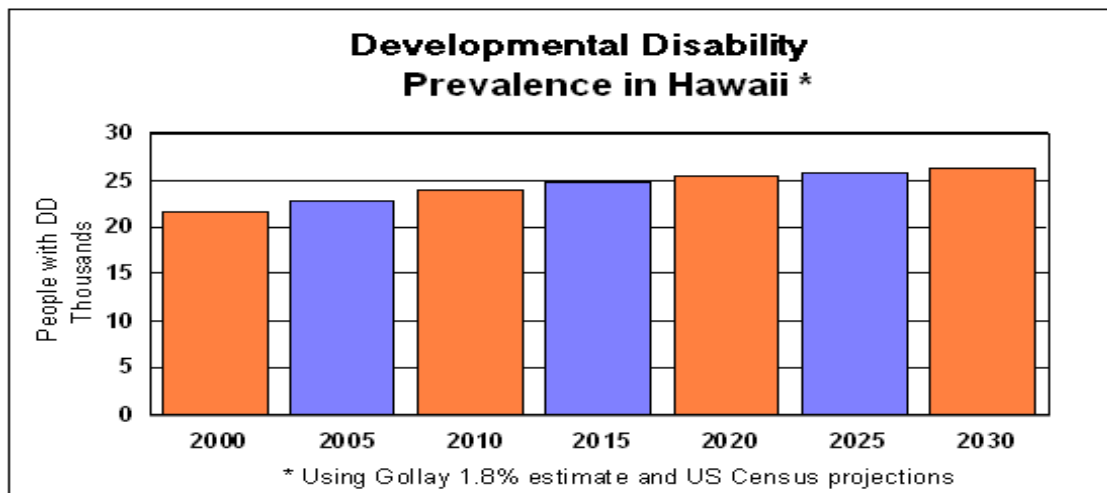
## FROM THE CHAIR...Deborah Kobayakawa

Aloha!

Looking back at January 2020 I had no idea I'd be elected as your new Chair during my first year on the DD Council. It's an honor to serve with all of you on the Council especially during these unprecedented times. COVID-19 has become a global pandemic impacting the lives of everyone in our state. In particular individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have had drastic changes with the closing of the programs and activities that are so important to them. Now more than ever we need to empower, advocate, and support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can safely navigate in a post-Covid world. It's going to take a lot of work for our individuals with ID/DD to return to the activities and programs they enjoy. It's my hope that as your Chair, we can work together with all of our statewide stakeholders to create a "new normal" that ensures a quality of life that our individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities desire to have.

## Council Membership

Philip Ana  
Michelle Arakawa  
John Beebe  
Maureen Bates  
Mary Brogan  
Amara Coon  
Bathey Fong  
Josh Ige  
Jacqueline Indreginal  
Deborah Kobayakawa  
Renee Manfredi  
Maile Mathews-Perez  
Shana Metsch  
Michelle Muralt  
Victoria Murray  
Darwin Nagamine  
Tim Renken  
Catherine Sorensen  
Santo Triolo  
Verna Waikiki  
R. Jack Whitaker  
Liza Yogi



### **The Council supported the Self-Advocacy Network in becoming a non-profit organization**

The State Legislature, through Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, appropriated funds to establish and support a statewide self-advocacy network for persons with developmental disabilities (DD). The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) is a group of self-advocate leaders with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are actively engaged in their community to address the concerns and needs of their peers throughout the State.

## THE COUNCIL...

State Councils were established in response to the federal *Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970* (PL 91-517). Hawai‘i’s Council was established in State Law by Act 198, Session Laws of Hawai‘i, in 1975.

The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health (DOH). The department serves as the designated state agency, providing fiduciary and administrative support.

The Council engages in activities which change the system of services for people with developmental disabilities and conducts systems change, capacity building, and advocacy activities that...

- Provide training for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families including legislative advocacy, training on the legislative process, and leadership development;
- Demonstrate new approaches to services, supports, and assistance;
- Inform federal, state, and local policymakers;
- Foster interagency collaboration and coordination;
- Eliminate barriers and enhancing the design and redesign of systems;
- Develop and support coalitions;
- Educate the public; and
- Coordinate and support community activities that follow the Council’s mission.

The Council, appointed by the Governor, is a group of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of Hawai‘i’s citizens with developmental disabilities. The philosophy of membership is that all key stakeholders are represented at the Council table: individuals with developmental disabilities; their family members, advocates; representatives of state and private agencies who provide services; representatives of the Hawai‘i Disability Rights Center (HDRC), the state’s Protection and Advocacy agency; University of Hawai‘i’s Center on Disability Studies (CDS) and other key community interests. The beauty of this composition is in the skills and experience that each brings to the table and shares with other Council members.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

[from PL 106-402, Sec. 102. Definitions, (8)]

(A) IN GENERAL. — The term “developmental disability” means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that—

- (i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- (ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
- (iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;
- (iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:
  - (I) Self-care.
  - (II) Receptive and expressive language.
  - (III) Learning.
  - (IV) Mobility.
  - (V) Self-direction.
  - (VI) Capacity for independent living.
  - (VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and
- (v) reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(B) INFANTS AND YOUNG

CHILDREN. —An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

## **The Council Areas of Emphasis**

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

- Enhancing residential placements within communities by avoiding the placement of individuals with developmental disabilities into institutions.
- Promoted collaboration with parent groups to identify residential needs throughout the state.
- Continue to work with County transportation coordinators statewide to assure bus routes are meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities so they can utilize generic services to access their community.
- Educated Legislators, City and County Council members, and Mayors about transportation and housing needs of individuals with disabilities.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- Created public awareness campaign to promote Developmental Disabilities and Disability Employment Awareness month.
- Collaborated with the Executive Office on Aging, creating educational material for the elderly and individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers on protecting yourself from COVID.
- Created and promoted vaccine awareness questions and answers for individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

### **TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT**

- Collaborated with Department of Human Services/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Department of Health/Adult Mental Health Division, Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations/Work Force Development Division, University of Hawaii/Center on Disability Studies, Office of the Governor, Department of Community Services City and County of Honolulu, U.S. Dept. of Labor –Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and private agencies to create activities to support students and young adults with disabilities with getting a job and earning competitive wages; such as supporting job fairs, informational venues such as Footsteps to Transition Fair, neighbor island employer outreach programs for over 200 individuals.
- Educated public and private agencies on Customized Employment.
- Educated self-advocates, family members, and public and private agencies on Employment First and the need to increase access to information on employment, education, training, and support services needed to prepare persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the transition to employment
- Continue to support the Project SEARCH initiative by holding the contracts so the project can continue throughout the states.
- Facilitated with our sister agencies; Center on Disability Studies and Hawaii Disability Rights Center, quarterly transition meetings with over a combined 200 professionals from Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and Department of Education, and Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division to break down silos, promote collaboration, share resources, and promote awareness of disability-related barriers and solutions to continued employment for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Facilitated a group of advocates, private and public agencies to meet with the State Budget and Finance Office, and as a result, a Hawaii ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account program at Bank of Hawaii began.
- Continued to host neighbor island Disability Legislative Forums to promote employment and to educate state and county policy makers and the community on the importance of having increased access to employment services and supports and information on transition services and supports needed to prepare students for transition to adult life.
- Distributed hundreds of copies of the *Pathway to Employment for Students with Developmental Disabilities Transitioning from High School* (Tri-agency Brochure) to self-advocates, family members, private and public agencies, caregivers, educators, and community members.
- Continued to collaborate to ensure that legislation is passed to change procurement laws to abolish the payment of sub-minimum wage based solely on a person's disability.
- Facilitated monthly meetings between Department of Human Resources/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division, Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations /Work Force Development Division, University of Hawaii/Center on Disability Studies, Department of Education, and Department of Community Services City and County of Honolulu Employment First activities to elevate employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH & HEALTH**

- Continued work with the Assistive Technology Resource Center to provide devices to toddlers to help with their communication needs rather than purchasing expensive communication devices through Medicaid or other insurance carriers.
- Educating legislatures and community members on the need to improve oral health for children and adults.
- Continued to work on promoting universal standardized developmental screening.

## **SELF-ADVOCACY & SELF-DETERMINATION**

- The Council supports the Hawaii Self Advocate Advisory Council (SAAC) in maintaining over 200 members statewide.
- Held train-the-trainer events; All about My Empowerment, person centered planning.
- Supporting self-advocates to join community groups and boards, promoting "Nothing About Me Without Me."
- Supported the self-advocates to be self-employed by being Feeling Safe Being Safe trainers, teaching public and private agencies, offices, schools on the importance of emergency preparedness.
- COVID-19 support through Weekly online Zoom Meetings since March 2020, neighbor island hand sanitizer and Protective Mask distribution.
- SAAC members participated as panelist in 2020 Legislative Forums on Maui, Kaua'i, West Hawai'i, and East Hawai'i
- SAAC Participants aided in the delivery of 216 meals to individuals with disabilities through the Expanded Meal Service Delivery program from the Honolulu City and County, Elderly Affairs Division CARES Act funding.

- SAAC Collaboration with Assistive Technology Resource Center for distribution of ipads and computers devices to qualified persons with disabilities.
- SAAC members continued collaboration with the Honolulu Zoo Shredding program to provide bedding for the animals.
- SAAC collaboration and support to the Hawaii Children and Youth Summit, which provides the Keiki Caucus with legislative priorities.

## The Council

### Offices & Contact Information

#### History

State Councils were established in response to the Federal *Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act of 1970 (PL 91-517)*. Hawaii's Council was established in State Law by Act 198, Session Laws of Hawaii in 1975. The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health. The Department serves as the Designated State Agency, providing fiduciary and administrative support. Although the Council operates in the state government, their federal law stipulates a non-interference law that allows the Council to maintain its autonomy, distinct independent role and responsibility

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Phone: (808) 586-8100  
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#### From the Neighbor Islands

Call Oahu toll-free:

Hawaii Island: 974-4000, x68100  
Kauai: 274-3141, x68100  
Maui: 984-2400, x68100  
Molokai, Lanai: 1-800-468-4644, x68100

#### Office Staff

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Che Silvert, Community & Legislative Liaison	Angie Nozaki, Office Assistant
Zosimo Arista, Program Specialist	

**Hawaii Island** (808) 936-4061  
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