

---

---

# 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 compared to those without  
4 disabilities. When compared to their non-disabled peers,  
5 individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities are  
6 more likely to have fair or poor health, obesity, and diabetes.

7           Decades of research has clearly established that people of  
8 minority groups living in the United States receive poor health  
9 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 troubling gaps in the health  
16 disparities of people with developmental or intellectual  
17 disabilities and their social determinants of health in the



1 State. Further research is needed to understand the health  
2 disparities of people with developmental or intellectual  
3 disabilities and their social determinants of health. This will  
4 help Hawai'i provide culturally appropriate health care, address  
5 barriers to health care access, reduce health disparities, and  
6 support individuals with developmental or intellectual  
7 disabilities live healthy lives in the 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 individuals with developmental or  
11 intellectual disabilities in the State.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The state council on developmental  
13 disabilities shall submit to the legislature no later than  
14 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
15 2025, a report focused on the health disparities experienced by  
16 individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities in  
17 the State. 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 the State between  
7 individuals with and without developmental or  
8 intellectual disabilities on health indicators and  
9 social determinants of health, 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 people with intellectual or developmental  
2 disabilities are having worse health outcomes  
3 than their typical 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 that would improve  
7 health care and address the health disparities  
8 experienced by individuals in the State with  
9 developmental or intellectual disabilities; and

10 (5) Proposed legislation, including best practices, for  
11 the State to reduce the health disparities experienced  
12 by individuals in the State with developmental or  
13 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 underlying health  
18 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 \$500,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the



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

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 December 31,  
10 2050.



**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 focused on the health disparities experienced by individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities in the State to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

