
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

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 identify the needs of
7 individuals, families, and care providers with intellectual and
8 developmental disabilities, evidencing the ongoing need for
9 continued support; and

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

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

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22 WHEREAS, the term "intellectual and developmental
23 disabilities" was established and is continuously used to be
24 encompassing and far-reaching in its inclusivity, expressing the
25 community's diversity and recognizing individuals' unique
26 strengths, challenges, needs, and experiences; and

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28 WHEREAS, the true extent of the cognitive abilities of
29 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is
30 not accurately reflected by measures of intelligence, as there



H.R. NO. 22

1 are seemingly infinite ways that individuals learn or express
2 themselves; and

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4 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
5 disabilities are unique in their own right and the notion of a
6 one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient to fully appreciate
7 and provide appropriate support for their inherent uniqueness;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges the intrinsic individuality
11 of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and
12 understands the importance of developing and providing
13 culturally appropriate services, programs, and resources that
14 not only uphold their dignity and active inclusion as valued
15 members of the community, but also nurture their potential and
16 safeguard their well-being; and

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

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25 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
26 disabilities, their families, and their care providers require
27 equitable resources and support, commensurate with their socio-
28 economic standing, to endure in their everyday lives; and

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30 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon society to protect and
31 provide for the most vulnerable communities in ensuring that all
32 people have equitable opportunities and access to thrive; and

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34 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among
35 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
36 while also facing disproportionate underdiagnosis, indicating
37 systemic disparities and increased vulnerabilities; and

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39 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian family-based and
40 communal structures established systems of effective care for
41 individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members
42 of society; and



H.R. NO. 22

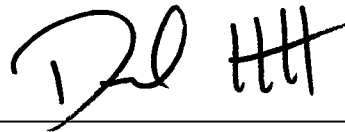
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WHEREAS, these traditional family-based and communal structures were dismantled and are furthered by unresolved historical injustice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, that the Governor and other pertinent state agencies are urged to commit to providing culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Superintendent of Education, Director of Human Services, President of the University of Hawaii System, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

OFFERED BY:



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