

MAR 08 2024

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# 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

28  
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

3  
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

11  
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

20  
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

27  
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

32  
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, the  
 12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor and this  
 13 body are urged to commit to providing culturally appropriate  
 14 resources, services, and programs for Native Hawaiian  
 15 individuals and families experiencing intellectual and  
 16 developmental disabilities; and

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

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OFFERED BY: Lynn Delivite

