



### Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

Is made up of adults with developmental disabilities. The council supports education, training and teaches advocacy skills. So others learn how to use their voice to create change.



### Our Vision

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are equal to all persons and enjoy basic human rights, among the 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.

### Our Mission

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.

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### HAWAII STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The DD Council supports self-choice for people with developmental disabilities and their families by helping create a personalized, and family-focused service system.



# What is the DD Council

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities or DD Council consists of 28 Governor-appointed members that includes individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), parents, family members, and representatives from public and private agencies that serve this population. At least 61% of the council (17 members) must be a person with I/DD or a family member of a person with I/DD.

# Intellectual/Developmental Disability

Developmental disability refers to a long-lasting, severe impairment that affects an individual's mental or physical abilities or both. It appears before the age of 22 and results in significant limitations in areas such as self-care, communication, learning, mobility, self-sufficiency, and independence. People with developmental disabilities require a variety of tailored, interdisciplinary services throughout their lives.

# To achieve the vision of the DD Act, state DD Councils use federal funding to:



CREATE partnerships, collaborations, innovative programs, and equal opportunities to improve the daily lives of people with ID/DD.



SPARK community change by bringing together people and partners to create equity in education, health, employment, and life.



EMPOWER self-advocates and family leaders, influence law and policy, and educate and protect people with ID/DD.



EDUCATE decision-makers using research and lived experiences to improve the lives of people with ID/DD.

# DD Councils' work removes barriers and increases opportunities for people with ID/DD so they can:

- Live – and fully participate – in the community
- Become leaders and self-advocates, creating their own paths and helping others
- Complete secondary (grades 6-12) and postsecondary (after grade 12) education
- Access health care to live longer, healthier lives
- Find and succeed in jobs that fit their individual interests and goals
- Stay connected and safe during emergencies
- Enjoy recreational and social activities

Their work also involves educating the public on how including people with ID/DD has a positive social and economic impact on communities.

