



Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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



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. 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 (I/DD)

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-direction, economic self-sufficiency, and independence. People with developmental disabilities require a variety of tailored, interdisciplinary services throughout their lives.

To achieve the vision of the Developmental Disabilities Act...

State DD Councils use federal funding to:



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



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

DD Councils help people with I/DD so they can:

- Live and participate fully in their community
- Become leaders and self-advocates, creating their own paths and helping others
- Complete secondary (grades 6-12) and postsecondary education
- Access healthcare to live longer and 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

DD Councils focus on removing barriers and increasing opportunities for people with I/DD. They also educate the public on the positive social and economic impact of including people with I/DD.



Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

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



Our Vision

Individuals with I/DD are equal to all people and enjoy basic human rights, which include life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. They have choices about where they live, work, learn, and play, and can freely pursue their spiritual beliefs. They are respected and receive the supports they need.

Our Mission

The mission of the Council is to empower, advocate, and support individuals with I/DD statewide to control their own destiny and achieve the quality of life they desire.

Contact Us

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