

Hawaii SILC Community Needs Assessment

Survey Redesign Summary

We updated Hawaii's Community Needs Assessment by combining the strongest parts of our existing survey with proven elements from the California SILC survey. The result is a plain-language survey that gathers richer data to guide the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) while staying accessible to a broader community.

Kept from Hawaii survey	Adopted from California survey	New additions for Hawaii
• Island question • Full service list (26 services) — much more complete than CA's 5 • Employment and school situation question • Daily needs yes/no grid (food, medicine, bills, transportation, etc.) • Communication channel preferences • Workshop and training interests • Community event preferences • Legislative priorities rating section • Disability type question	• Two-lens framing: what helps YOU vs. what your COMMUNITY needs • Barriers section with intensity ratings (low to very high) • Advocacy and civic engagement participation question • Forward-looking "one thing that would improve lives" question • "Two things you value most" open-ended question • Welcoming intro that invites everyone — not just people with disabilities — to respond • Identity questions at the end for segmenting responses	• Plain-language rewrite throughout (about 6th-grade reading level) • Glossary box explaining CIL, SILC, and SPIL • Inline explanations for jargon (PCA, DME, ADA, benefits planning, peer support, guardianship, etc.) • Inter-island travel as a barrier • Rural and neighbor-island service access • Cultural and language responsiveness • Disaster preparedness (post-Lahaina relevance) • Talk story sessions as an event option • Native Hawaiian place names with 'okina • Accessibility note up front (alt formats, help filling out) • "Prefer not to say" options where appropriate

Key design decisions

Plain language: Short sentences, common words, no jargon (or jargon explained inline). Aimed at a 6th-grade reading level so the survey is accessible to people with cognitive disabilities, English learners, and the general public.

Two-lens framing: CA's smartest move: asking what helps YOU separately from what your COMMUNITY needs. This captures both personal experience and community awareness, and helps SPIL prioritize services that matter beyond individual users.

Wide audience: The survey welcomes people with disabilities, family members, caregivers, providers, and allies. Identity questions let us segment the data afterward instead of limiting who can respond.

Hawaii-specific barriers: Inter-island travel, rural access, cultural and language responsiveness, and disaster preparedness reflect the realities of disability life in Hawaii that a mainland survey would miss.

Accessibility by design: 12pt Arial, clear headings, screen-reader-friendly structure, checkbox symbols, and an up-front note that the survey is available in alternative formats.

Draft for SILC review — feedback welcome before finalizing and distribution.