



Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities SILC Quarterly Report – 6/4/26

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) stayed busy during the 2026 Legislative Session. We worked with self-advocates, families, community organizations, lawmakers, and state agencies on issues that affect people with developmental disabilities, older adults, caregivers, and others who need support to live safely and independently in their communities.

This year, DD Council also began a new partnership with Lanakila Pacific through the national March for Meals campaign. This partnership highlighted how the aging and disability communities often share the same goals: helping people make their own choices and be independent while getting the support they need at home and in their communities.

During the legislative session, DD Council supported bills and resolutions that promote safety, accessibility, independence, and community inclusion. Some key efforts included improving emergency communication systems through Smart911, supporting a new Access and Functional Needs Coordinator position at Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, increasing access to adult changing tables in public places, expanding housing opportunities, protecting digital accessibility, and speeding up housing permits for projects that serve people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

Not every proposal passed as originally written, but many continued through resolutions, workgroups, agency actions, or policy changes. One major accomplishment was Hawai'i moving forward with Medicaid policy changes that allow working people with disabilities ages 16–64 to keep more of their income and savings without losing benefits.

Several measures supported by DD Council have now been sent to Governor Josh Green for final review.

In addition to legislative work, DD Council is developing its new five-year State Plan, which is required under federal law. We have been gathering input from self-advocates, families, providers, community partners, and other stakeholders across the state to help identify priorities for the next five years. Once a draft is available, we will share it with SILC and welcome feedback during the public comment process.

DD Council appreciates its ongoing partnership with SILC and the independent living community. We look forward to continuing our work together to improve self-determination, accessibility, emergency preparedness, housing opportunities, and full community participation for people with disabilities throughout Hawai'i.