



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WAYNETTE CABRAL
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAPITOL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ABILITIES, STRENGTHS OF PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

HONOLULU – The State Council on Developmental Disabilities will convene its 14th annual “Day at the Capitol” on Thursday, March 13, 2014, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the State Capitol Auditorium. Gov. Neil Abercrombie will highlight the event by declaring March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” in Hawaii with a proclamation presentation at 2:30 p.m. in the Executive Office Ceremonial Room.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Hawaii is part of a nationwide campaign to raise public awareness and build understanding of the abilities and strengths of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year’s theme, “Ability at Work,” encourages people to understand that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have abilities, skills and talents that make an important contribution to the fabric of the Aloha state.

“We hope everyone will use this time to learn how they can become involved in working alongside individuals with developmental disabilities to transform their communities into welcoming and supportive places for people of all abilities,” said Waynette Cabral, Executive Administrator of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

“Communities are stronger and better for everyone when all citizens are not only accepted but also respected for the contributions they make and their strengths, abilities and gifts.”

More than 500 self-advocates, family members, service providers and other advocates are expected to attend this event to celebrate and to participate in the legislative process by meeting legislators from their home districts; be introduced and recognized during the House and Senate Floor sessions; attend public hearings; take a tour of the State Capitol; and meet and network with others.

This event is a collaborative venture coordinated by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities in partnership with the Hilopaa Family to Family Health Information Center and the Hoopaa Hawaii Autism State Implementation Grant.

Since Ronald Reagan’s 1987 presidential proclamation, the nation has celebrated March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. More than six million

individuals in the United State have developmental disabilities. A developmental disability, according to the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, is defined as a severe, chronic mental and/or physical disability which originated at birth or by age 22, is expected to continue indefinitely, and substantially limits the individual's functioning in several major life activities. Examples include, but are not limited to, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, Epilepsy, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Spina Bifida.

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