



One Vision – One Voice, Supporting Advocacy, Independence and Choice

### Our Mission

The Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council's mission is to raise awareness and the quality of life for all self-advocates through leadership, education, and full participation in the community.

### Our Self-Advocacy Work

We “lead by example” and teach advocacy so people can have the life they want.

### Our Self-Advocacy Network

We are leaders creating change in ourselves, our homes, and our community through independence, choice, decision-making, and speaking up for ourselves. We network with agencies, families, professionals, and other advocates.

### Our Advocacy in Action

Here are some of our Advocacy in Action Activities:

We have certified Feeling Safe Being Safe trainers. We can come to your agency, home, your classroom to provide Emergency Preparedness Training.

We provide advocacy training using the strategy THINK, PLAN, DO; a three-step process of how to make life changing decisions.

We train educators and families using our personal stories on the importance of transition planning and why it is important to attend and have a voice at your own meetings.

1010 Richards Street, Suite 122  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-8169

SAAC President: Timothy Renken  
DD Council Liaison Staff: Zosimo Arista  
email: zosimo.arista@doh.hawaii.gov



## History of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC)

A small group of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) began meeting in August 2006 to establish a self-advocacy advisory council; increase their knowledge, understanding, and awareness of their rights; develop leadership skills; empower themselves to take control of their lives; and make their own decisions. The group worked on a mission statement, by-laws, and policies and procedures. In January 2007, the Hawaii State Council on DD (DD Council) initiated legislation to appropriate funds to support a statewide self-advocacy network of individuals with I/DD to provide education and training, opportunities to develop leadership skills, and to network with other self-advocacy organizations across the country. The 2007 State legislature appropriated funds for a coordinator and operating expenses to support SAAC and establish a statewide self-advocacy network. The funds are appropriated to and administered by the DD Council. The legislature has remained committed through its continued appropriation to support efforts of self-advocates to become active partners in the design and enhancement of the service delivery system, contribute to their communities, and establish a statewide self-advocacy network.



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1010 RICHARDS STREET, #122, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8169 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
[www.hisaac.org](http://www.hisaac.org) 501(c)3: 26-1795965



## Self-Advocacy Network

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) is a group of self-advocate leaders with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The members are actively engaged in their community to address the concerns and needs of their peers throughout the state. SAAC activities include:

- Establishing leadership skills and activities to transition SAAC to a non-profit.
- Connecting to local communities to provide education, training and community service.
- Producing field tested advocacy tools, publications, webinars and videos.
- Increasing self-advocate membership on the neighbor islands
- Securing guest speakers and trainers to address topics such as personal rights, employment, health, self-determination, leadership and housing.
- Networking nationally and internationally with agencies.