

Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference  
“Continuing to Meet Challenges to Access to Justice”  
Friday, June 17, 2022

Workshop Summary

**“ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) and Access to Justice”**  
Friday, June 17, 2022, 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Rona Yagi Fukumoto, President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, shared information about the history of advocacy and successful creation of the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. Since Congress passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, advocates in Hawaii have worked with local legislators to create a local program. Hawaii's plan, the ABLE for All Savings Plan, is a financial tool that allows an individual with a disability, who receives SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, SNAP, HUD assistance, Medicare, FAFSA, or other state and federal benefits, to save up to \$100,000 before they lose their benefits. To qualify, an individual must meet the disability requirements of SSI or SSDI, with a disability that developed before age 26, that will last at least a year. More importantly, the ABLE plan provides the individual and their family the resources, support, and holistic services to reach their financial goals. ABLE was designed for self-empowerment and built with a presumption of competence. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to manage their own accounts and are both the beneficiary as well as the account owner. The presenters also provided details on how to sign up and other considerations.