

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL FORUM**  
***Aging, Brain Health, and Cognitive Decline***  
***for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities***  
**A SPECIAL, INTERACTIVE EVENT FOR HAWAII IDD PROVIDERS, CAREGIVERS**  
**AND ADVOCATES TO NETWORK AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK**

A panel of leading national professionals from the *National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG)* <https://www.the-ntg.org> and a Hawaii geriatrician will share their knowledge and expertise on the basics of Aging, Disabilities and Cognitive Decline for Persons with IDD and their caregivers. The NTG is collaborating with *Catholic Charities Hawaii* to offer current information and resources on this topic.

We hope you can join us for this networking opportunity where we can share stories and focus on local needs and concerns.

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 10-11:30am**

🌸 *The Forum will include the following topics:*

- **Understanding Aging, IDD, and Dementia (Aging does not equal disease; supporting your loved ones and participants; health advocacy and aging; risk factors including aging and Down syndrome; brain health)**
- **Assessment and Screening for Cognitive Impairment (NTG-EDSD, a tool to track cognitive change in adults with IDD: what it is, how often it's filled out by someone who knows the person best)**
- **Partnering and Communicating with Doctors and Healthcare Professionals (The important relationship with physicians; sharing the ESDS tool with healthcare providers; resources and progress in Hawaii)**
- **Dementia and IDD (Dementia types, irreversible forms vs. potentially treatable; signs/symptoms to rule out; dementia-related behaviors and triggers, environmental modifications that can increase safety and comfort)**

**Please register at this EventBrite Link**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aging-brain-health-and-cognitive-decline-for-persons-with-idd-tickets-187912249597>

**If you have questions, please contact: Jody Mishan, (808) 295-2624 or [jmishan@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jmishan@hawaii.rr.com)**  
The Zoom link, agenda and handouts will be sent to registrants prior to the session. Sorry, no CEs are available



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# **OUR PANEL OF NATIONAL and HAWAII EXPERTS**

## **Aging, Brain Health and Cognitive Decline for Persons with IDD**

### **Virtual Hawaii FORUM, October 20, 2021**



**Kathleen M. Bishop, PhD** has over 45 years of experience in the developmental disabilities field and over 25 as a Gerontologist with a specialty in aging with developmental disabilities. She has a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Special Education and a PhD from Syracuse University in Aging with Disabilities. Dr. Bishop is retired from the NYS OPWDD and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She continues to consultant nationally and internationally and is an adjunct faculty member of the Utica College Institute of Gerontology and Mohawk Valley Community College. She serves as Co-Vice President of the National Task Group on ID and Dementia Practices (NTG), is Executive Board Member and co-chair of the Education and Training Committee to lead the NTG in the development of a national curriculum on dementia care for caregivers and those who provide supports for adults with ID diagnosed with dementia.



**Dr. Lucille Esralew** is a certified Clinical Neuropsychologist, a Certified Dementia Practitioner (NCCDP) and Certified Clinician from the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD). She is on NTG Board of Directors and is a Master Trainer for the National Task Group on ID and Dementia Practices (NTG) Dementia Capable Caregiving curriculum and spearheaded the development of the NTG-EDSD screening tool for dementia. She serves as Senior Psychologist for the California Department of Developmental Services through the Clinical Services Branch of the Office of Statewide Clinical Services. Dr. Esralew serves as Chair of the NTG Scientific/Research Consultative Panel and Co-Chair of its Advisory Body.



**Ritabelle Fernandes, MD, MPH** is an Associate Professor at the Geriatric Medicine Dept. of the John A Burns School of Medicine, U. of Hawaii. She is a practicing geriatrician at Kalihi-Palama Health Center and a medical director at Bristol Hospice. She was a practicing community geriatrician at Kokua Kalihi Valley Community Health Center for the last 14 years where she developed programs to serve low-income seniors such as a memory clinic, home-based palliative care services, chronic disease group visits, caregiver support groups, and the establishment of clinics based at public housing and elder center. Dr. Fernandes has served on the Doctors' workgroup for the Hawaii State Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. She is a certified Regional Trainer for the National Task Group on ID and Dementia Practices. Dr. Fernandes has championed memory clinics across the state to provide comprehensive dementia care.



**Kathryn Pears, MPPM** is a dementia expert with over 30 years personal and professional experience. Following a 15-year career with the Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter she started her own company, Dementia Care Strategies where she trains and consults with families, health and long-term care professionals and facilities, state and national organizations, and aging and disability community agencies on non-pharmacologic management of the challenging behaviors that occur with dementia. She is Co-Vice President of the National Task Group on ID and Dementia Practices and co-chairs their working group that has developed a national model curriculum on dementia-capable care for adults with IDD who are at risk for or have been diagnosed with dementia. A Lead Trainer for the model curriculum, she travels the country conducting NTG workshops.