

SB0362 -Sunshine Projects - <https://www.sunshineprojects.org/>

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Writing to you today are Elma Galimba and Emily Halm, both proud to be associated with Sunshine Projects, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in leading independent and fulfilling lives. Through a diverse range of educational classes and thorough engagement, we strive to empower our members to achieve their fullest potential every day.

As passionate advocates for individuals with IDD, we are compelled to stress the critical role of maintaining a budget to sustain self-direction through programs like Sunshine Projects. These programs play a vital role in providing essential support, enrichment, and opportunities for individuals with IDD to thrive and lead independent lives.

Effective budget management is not only essential for the financial stability of organizations like Sunshine Projects, but also for ensuring the continuity and accessibility of the self-direct services they provide. By carefully allocating resources and managing expenses, we can ensure that these programs remain operational and accessible to those who rely on them most.

A well-maintained budget enables organizations like Sunshine Projects to cover essential costs such as staffing, facility maintenance, materials, and program development, while also allowing for innovation, growth, and expansion. It serves as a foundation for sustainability, enabling these programs to weather challenges, adapt to changing needs, and continue making a positive impact in the lives of individuals with IDD and their families.

Furthermore, budgeting should prioritize the needs and aspirations of individuals with IDD, ensuring that resources are allocated in a way that maximizes their participation, growth, empowerment, and independence. Because of SDAN, it is essential to listen to their voices, involve them in decision-making processes, and tailor programs to meet their unique strengths, interests, and goals.

In conclusion, we urge policymakers, donors, and community members to recognize the critical importance of maintaining a budget to support self-direction through programs like Sunshine Projects. By doing so, we can ensure that individuals with IDD continue to have access to the life-enriching opportunities and support they need to strive and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting individuals with IDD and the programs that serve them.

Sincerely,

Elma Galimba (Founder) and Emily Halm (Community Relations Director)

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Elma Galimba
Founder

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Emily Halm
Community Relations Director



Sunshine Projects

Inspire and be Inspired

About Us!

Sunshine Projects is committed to enhancing the lives of special needs adults in the greater DC area as well as virtually nationwide, including Hawaii. Our mission revolves around providing exceptional enrichment and leadership development opportunities to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through a comprehensive array of educational and creative programs, we empower these individuals to create and shape their own unique experiences every day.



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