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25 February 2022

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Time: 9:45 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SB 2115 Relating to Room Confinement of Minors

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **support** of SB 2115 relating to the room confinement of minors. This bill establishes conditions and time limits for placing a minor in room confinement at a detention or shelter facility. Concerns about the effectivenes, and danger, of youth confinement have grown, according to a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the practice of placing juveniles in solitary confinement is being reassessed. Solitary confinement, also known as room confinement, seclusion, isolation or segregation, can include physical and social isolation in a cell for 22 to 24 hours a day. Such isolation can lead to depression, anxiety, psychosis and psychological and developmental harm, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Research also shows that more than half of all suicides in juvenile facilities occurred while young people were held in isolation.[[1]](#footnote-1) We are in support of this bill.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is a collaboration of organizations and individual committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs.

We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally-informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB 2115.**

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1. https://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/rethinking-solitary-confinement-for-juveniles.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-1)