

**OPPORTUNITY  
YOUTH  
ACTION HUI**

15 March 2022

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
Hearing Time: 09:00am  
Location: CR329 & Virtual Videoconference  
Re: SB 2115, SD1, Relating to the Room Confinement of Minors

Aloha e Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of SB 2115, SD1, relating to the room confinement of minors. This bill would establish conditions and time limits for placing a minor in room confinement at a detention or shelter facility.

This measure would protect children from the negative effects of prolonged and ineffective room confinement. According to findings from the 2016 Juvenile Residential Facility Census (released in December 2018), 46% of all facilities reported locking youth in their rooms. Among public facilities, 81% of local facilities and 68% of state facilities reported locking youth in sleeping rooms. Those who experience confinement are more likely to develop **anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and psychosis**. The practice also affects physical health, increasing a person's risk for a range of conditions, including fractures, vision loss, and chronic pain. We believe this bill is a pivotal and important step in the effort to protect and care for minors in the system.

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.**