

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m., February 8, 2023

Location: State Capitol

Re: HB 317, HD1, relating to youth fees and fines

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

We are writing to provide **comments on** HB 317, HD1, relating to youth fees and fines.

This bill prohibits the assessment of any fines, fees, or court costs against a person who was adjudicated for an offense committed while the person was a minor under the age of eighteen, or against the person's parent or guardian. It limits court ordered community service for minors to seventy-two hours and repeals the statewide curfew for minors.

Although we are still reviewing the potential impacts of this measure, we seek to express our support for the intent of addressing the punitive aspects of the judicial system experienced by youth.

Our collective, the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi (OYAH), works to support young people under age 25 who are disconnected from school and work, referred to as “opportunity youth.” This developmental time period is extremely consequential to the individual growth and overall life chances of our children. Although HB 317, HD1 specifically pertains to minors, we also support the legislature’s ongoing efforts to address the needs of opportunity youth more broadly.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui is a collaboration of organizations and individuals 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.