

Committee: House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m., February 7, 2023

Location: State Capitol

Re: HB 586, Relating to the Judiciary

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

We are writing in **support** of HB 586, Relating to the Judiciary.

This bill requires the Judiciary to develop, implement, and administer an automated court appearance reminder system that generates text message notifications for upcoming court appearances in certain types of cases and it appropriates funds to do so.

Studies cited in this measure, as well as research published in 2020 in *Science*, indicate that providing text message reminders increases the likelihood that defendants show up to their appointed court date, thus eliminating a substantial percentage of arrest warrants for failing to appear in court. We believe that this will be an important step toward reducing the escalation of consequences that can ensue once an individual first encounters the justice system.

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. We support this measure.

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.

**Please support HB 586.**