

JANUARY 20, 2023

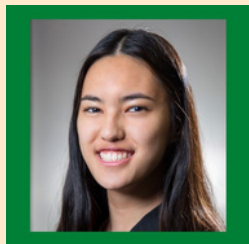
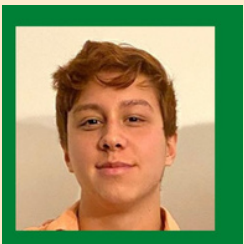
Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

Opening the Legislature with Hope for Policy Change in 2023



State Representative Della Au Belatti, chair of the House Health Committee, (second from right) met with OYAH policy advocate Melissa Pavlicek (second from left) and representatives from National Crittenton (Shakira Washington left and Jeanette Pai-Espinosa center) and Hannah Green from Vera Institute for Justice to discuss eliminating youth incarceration with an emphasis on girls. Rep. Belatti expressed interest in learning more about OYAH's legislative priorities and especially the potential for eliminating the sunset date on Hawaii's youth right to housing law.

The OYAH, Vera Institute and National Crittenton representatives also met with State Senator Maile Shimabukuro and the state's new director of the Governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience Tia Roberts Harstock.



Welcome back to policy interns LHaumea Velasco (left) and Leah Delos Santos who will lead OYAH's legislative efforts with volunteer Melissa Pavlicek.

ACLU and U.C. Berkeley Policy Advocates Support Measure to Cut Juvenile Court Fees

The OYAH policy interns are reviewing bills introduced at the state legislature and will present their recommendations to OYAH policy leaders by the end of January.

The policy interns have communicated with ACLU and U.C. Berkeley Policy advocates who are supporting a bill to prohibit the assessment of any fines, fees, or court costs against a person who was adjudicated for an offense committed during the person's minority, or against the person's parent or guardian, and discharges all related debt obligations assessed prior to the effective date of the Act. Rep. Sonny Canaden introduced the bill as HB 317.

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/bills/HB317_.htm

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