

APRIL 1, 2022



OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

The second cohort of college student advocates has been engaged by members of the Opportunity Youth Action Hui to advance initiatives in support of the hui member organizations, including Native Hawaiian equity in the criminal justice system, workforce training and development, trauma-informed care, and the education, mental health and well-being of youth.

UC BERKELEY LAW SCHOOL POLICY ADVOCATES COLLABORATE WITH OYAH INTERNS



University of California, Berkeley, Law School clinical teaching fellow Cameron Clark (far left), second year U.C. Berkeley law student Amanda Chang (third from left) and other representatives from the Berkeley Policy Clinic met with OYAH intern Lyla Gonsalves (far right) and advisor Melissa Pavlicek (second from right) to discuss Hawaii House Bill 1459 on juvenile restitution and bills that OYAH has prioritized in 2022. OYAH intern Leah Delos Santos (not pictured) also participated.

BILL TO SUPPORT KAWAILOA COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE FUND MAKES A COMEBACK

Senate Bill 1128, one of OYAH's priorities, is a bill that would permit individual vocational programs within the purview of the Office of Youth Services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults. And it would establish the Office of Youth Services revolving fund. In our testimony, we stated information about the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center being established in 2018, a few years after the reform and improvement of Hawai'i's juvenile justice system in 2014, and that it offers similar programs to what SB 1128 is proposing, like skills building and vocational training.

OYAH is advocating that the additional source of revenue proposed by this measure will support the Office of Youth Services, as well as the 'opio of Hawai'i. SB 1128 has an interesting backstory, as it was originally introduced during the 2021 legislative session. Many assumed that the bill was dead. A hearing in the House committee on Finance was scheduled for April 1 at 3pm.

RECENT TESTIMONY

This week OYAH supported:

SB 2115, SD1 HD1, relating to the room confinement of minors; this bill would establish conditions and time limits for placing a minor in confinement.

SB 2770, SD1 HD1, relating to Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs; this rehabilitation program for prison inmates would put an emphasis on Hawaiian culture and values.

HB 2309, HD2 SD1, relating to incarceration. This measure will appropriate moneys for the development and maintenance of diversion, reentry, and rehabilitation services and programs by non-profit organizations in the state.

HB 1570, HD1, SD1, relating to the Youth Vaping Epidemic, as this bill would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and mislabeled e-liquid products.

SB 1128, SD2, HD1, relating to the Office of Youth Services.

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