

APRIL 22, 2023

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

A Day at the Capitol with the OYAH Policy Team!

On April 21, the OYAH Policy Team spent the day down at the State Capitol, talking with legislators about our priority bills and next steps. We asked them to support certain measures as they move into the conference committee stage. Bills discussed include **SB 129** (Youth Right to Housing sunset date elimination/extension), **HB 349** (Emancipation of Minors), **HB 68** (Criminal Justice Research Institute; Centralized Data System), and **SB 210** (Criminal Justice Research Working Group).

The OYAH Policy Team visited the offices of Rep. David Tarnas, Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Rep. Adrian Tam, Rep. Terez Amato, Rep. John Mizuno, House Speaker Scott Saiki, Sen. Karl Rhoads, Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Sen. Glenn Waikai, and more.



(L to R: OYAH Policy Advocates Melissa Pavlicek, Rep. David Tarnas, Leah Delos Santos, and Haumea Velasco)

Each legislator was confident that we would be able to pass these measures and meet our goals. Although nothing is ever set in stone until deadlines are met, we are crossing our fingers and doing everything we can to emphasize our support of these bills to our policy-makers. These next few weeks are going to be hectic at the State Legislature as the session nears its end, but we plan on keeping our foot on the gas, urging our leaders to help us improve the lives of our opportunity youth in Hawai'i. The fight is not over yet!

(L to R: Melissa Pavlicek, Leah Delos Santos, Haumea Velasco, and Rep. John Mizuno. Sydney Story also represented OYAH at the capitol.)



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