

AUGUST 19, 2022

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

OYAH and the Criminal Justice Research Institute Discuss Research and Collaboration

The OYAH Policy Team met with Erin Harbinson from the Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI) to talk about the Institute's missions and goals, as well as possible ways in which OYAH can collaborate with CJRI in upcoming projects and research opportunities.

Erin shared the CJRI's current summer work, including strategic planning, creating legislation from scratch, and using funding to figure out how to technologically link data sources to a central location. The CJRI is also working on comparing data from other states, creating a racially equal and fair reporting and data collection system, and acknowledging and supporting a more rehabilitating framework for the justice system.

One of the main areas that the OYAH Policy Team and CJRI can work together is community outreach. The CJRI is looking for more community-based research, and possible focus groups and other community engagement projects hosted by the Policy Team were proposed.

Criminal Justice Research Institute Resources:

Additional resources and provided to OYAH by Erin Harbinson:

There are three sections in chapter 614 that cover CJRI's set-up, responsibilities, and details about assessing the feasibility and creating a centralized statewide criminal pretrial data reporting system:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol13_Ch0601-0676/HRS0614/HRS_0614-0001.htm

CJRI's last annual report, which includes our strategic plan goals:

<https://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/RPT-CJRI-Annual-Report-12.17.21-FINAL.pdf>

The pretrial task force report, including recommendations on bail reform:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/JC1.pdf>

"The Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI) was established by Act 179 following a recommendation from the Criminal Pretrial Task Force. The state of Hawai'i recognized a need to develop a research organization that could examine all aspects of the criminal justice system in order to help the state connect research and data in a comprehensive way."

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