

**PRIORITY**

NOVEMBER 04, 2022

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## Policy Priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session

During the policy priorities meeting on October 25th, past legislative efforts were discussed, as well as new ideas and areas of focus brought up by OYAH members. Here are some of the topics that were raised:

- Expanding Native Hawaiian rehabilitation to support youth/young adults
- Making sure the youth right to housing legislation does not sunset
- Emancipation at age 16
- Funding (specifically) for youth crisis centers and mental health programs/resources
- Youth coming out of the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division programs and falling into adult systems without any guidance
  - Support needed to start transition process while still in CAMHD care, not after
  - Youth residential mental health programs/services needed in-state/on-island -- keep kids here!
- Addressing the release of funds for the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program
- Kauhale Program/projects, 'Ohana Zones -- fast affordable housing, benefits
- Increasing High School Graduation for Students with Educational Disruptions (draft bill proposal by SchoolHouse Connection)
  - High school graduation for students experiencing homelessness
- Minors and Protective Orders (SB 2394/HB 1850) -- allows for another adult to assist teen in petitioning the court for protection through a restraining order
- Child Welfare Services Reform -- Mālama 'Ohana
- 'Ohana Support Service Centers
- Youth Workforce Development
- Trauma-informed training for child/youth workers

The Policy Team will be hosting another meeting regarding the policy priorities of OYAH members next week **Monday, November 7th, at 4:00 pm**. We would love to see you there!

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## Juvenile Incarceration Tied to Poor Health

"(Reuters Health) - People incarcerated as juveniles may have worse physical and mental health as adults than youths who did not spend time in detention centers or correctional facilities, according to a new study."

"A lot of people think there are potentially harmful effects of being in the justice system, but the long-term effects really haven't been quantified," said lead author Dr. Elizabeth Barnert, of the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles."

"Compared to those not incarcerated, those in the system for more than a year were nearly three times more likely to have functional limitation, over four times more likely to have symptoms of depression and over two times more likely to have suicidal thoughts as adults."

See

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/being-incarcerated-as-a-juvenile-tied-to-poor-health-years-later\\_n\\_58878420e4b0e3a7356bef99?utm\\_campaign=share\\_email&ncid=other\\_email\\_o63gt2jcad4](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/being-incarcerated-as-a-juvenile-tied-to-poor-health-years-later_n_58878420e4b0e3a7356bef99?utm_campaign=share_email&ncid=other_email_o63gt2jcad4)  
for more.



**We hope everyone had a  
very hau'oli Heleuī!!!**