

February 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Time: 1:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 225

Re: SB3125, RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SB3125, relating to medical care for minors. This bill authorizes minors who are 14 years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. This bill also requires confidentiality policies and practices for insurers and providers.

Allowing youth who are under the age of 14 to consent to medical care for STDs and other family planning services empowers youth held back from caring for themselves due to parental neglect or abandonment. This is especially important for youth dealing with trauma-based health issues who are unable to receive care.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB3125.**

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