

April 17, 2024

House Comittee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Time: 2:00 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 325

Re: SCR213 SD1, Requesting the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts to collect, compile, and share data on the assessment of fees, court costs, fines, and restitution in cases against minors.

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SCR213, SD1, which requests Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts to collect, compile, and share data on the assessment of fees, court costs, fines, and restitution in cases against minors.

This bill will help gather information and collect data on when and how fines, fees, court costs, and restitution are ordered, collected, and monitored across the juvenile justice system statewide. By mandating the collection and dissemination of data pertaining to these financial obligations, SCR213 SD1 empowers policymakers, stakeholders, and the public with information necessary to evaluate the efficacy and fairness of the current juvenile justice system. A comprehensive analysis of this data helps identify patterns of inequity, assess the impact of financial penalties on minors and their families, and implement evidence-based reforms to promote greater justice and equality before the law.

Often, minors may find themselves entangled in legal proceedings without the means of navigating the complexities of the legal system. The imposition of fees, fines, and court costs can disproportionately burden minors and their families, exacerbate existing socioeconomic disparities and hinder their ability to move forward in their lives.

Further, SCR213 SD1 will help juveniles and their families concentrate their financial resources on accessing other services more in line with rehabilitation, such as providing basic needs, maintaining housing security, accessing counseling, educational, and mental health services.

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 SCR213 SD1.**

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