

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## First Meeting of Family Court Judges' Circle



Left to Right: Josiah Akau (Kanai'eha), J. Matt Viola, Judge Trish Morikawa, Carla Houser (RYSE), Chief Judge Mark Browning, Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni (PIDF)

On January 31, representatives from OYAH partner organizations Kanai'eha, RYSE, and the Partners in Development Foundation met with Family Court judges to discuss the ways in which the judiciary can begin to work with our partners. We emphasized the need for housing, rehabilitation services, and mentorship roles for youth.

The Judges' Circle participants also discussed the accessibility of these services and the ways in which those services need to expand in order to best serve the needs of our youth plaintiffs and their families.

Together, we realized that creating an archive of success would provide an ability to quantify the history, methodology, and successes of the judicial system, specifically within the Family Court. Using firsthand knowledge of court happenings, this archive would quantify the success of these systems in a manner that could be presented as proof of program success.

Most importantly, we were able to establish open lines of communication between the judiciary and the present organizations, that we will continue to make use of as the legislative session progresses.

## OYAH Supported HB 1130: Trauma-Informed Care Certification Program

On February 8, the State House Corrections and Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously advanced House Bill 1130, relating to corrections, which appropriates funds to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawai'i. This bill requires the curriculum to include a level I trauma-informed care course designed for adult corrections officers.

The Hawai'i State Judiciary supported the bill, noting that "understanding trauma and implementing trauma-informed practices can improve outcomes [for people in the judicial system.]" The State Department of Public Safety also supported the measure and said that adult corrections may benefit from a voluntary trauma-informed care certification training by interacting with individuals in the corrections and rehabilitation system who have experienced serious trauma during their lifetime.

The bill moves next to the House Committee on Finance where it will need to be approved prior to March 2 to advance to a floor vote in the House.



Back row:  
Leah Delos Santos,  
Shawn  
Kana'iaupuni,  
Melissa Pavlicek.  
Front row:  
Sydney Story,  
Haumea Velasco

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