

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## OYAH Policy Priorities in the Legislature: April 3 - 7, 2023

**SB 1044 SD2 HD2:** This bill pertains to the placement of behavioral health specialists in rural public schools. On 4/5, the Senate Committee on Finance recommended that the measure be passed unamended.

**HB 1130 + SB712:** These bills would fund a program for the certification for corrections officers in trauma-informed care. On 4/4/2023, The bill received its third reading and then it received a notice of disagreement on 4/5. This means a conference committee of legislators will be designated to finalize the bill.

**HB 68:** this bill creates a centralized pretrial justice data and collection system. On 4/6 the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) held a decision-making hearing. It was approved, unamended, and will move to the Senate floor for a vote.

**SB 295:** Establishes the malama ohana working group within the office of wellness and resilience to pursue positive change within the state's child welfare system. On 4/4 the Senate Committee on Finance recommended the measure be passed with amendments and the bill was given a 48 hour notice on 4/6.

**SB 410:** Relates to expungement and on 4/4 received a notice of disagreement. A conference committee will be designated.

## OYAH Supported Bill Sent to Governor For Signature

House Bill 823 was adopted by the legislature and sent to Governor Green for his signature on April 5. This bill expands the scope of reports on correctional facility and community correctional center deaths that are submitted to the governor and legislature. It requires certain reports to be published on the department of corrections and rehabilitation website.

## OYAH Policy Initiative After-Session Actions

The OYAH policy initiative and interns Leah Delos Santos, Sydney Story, and Haumea Velasco received further recognition for the recently published op-ed in the Honolulu Star Advertiser when a grant officer of local non-profit organization called to express interest.

### Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i

March 24, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Time: 09:40 p.m.

Location: State Capitol

Re: HB 823 HD2, Relating to Deaths Within the Correctional System

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support** of HB 823 HD2, Relating to Deaths Within the Correctional System.

This bill will expand the scope of reports on correctional facility and community correctional center deaths that are submitted to the governor and legislature; require certain reports to be published on the department of corrections and rehabilitation website; and mandate public access to other information reported.

The lives of those in correctional facilities matter just as much as those that are not. And their deaths should be investigated, treated, and reported on with the utmost respect and diligence. The public deserves complete transparency on the happenings within the correctional and justice systems of Hawai'i.

Our collective, Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i (OYAH), works to support young people under the age of 25 who are disconnected from school and work, referred to as "opportunity youth." This developmental time period is extremely consequential to the individual growth and overall life chances of our children. **We strongly support this measure.**

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i 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 homelessness 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 HB 823, HD2.