

APRIL 14, 2023

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## After-Session Goals:

The OYAH policy initiative and interns Leah Delos Santos, Sydney Story, and Haumea Velasco recently brainstormed effective ways to continue bolstering our work with Opportunity Youth. As the legislative session draws to a close, we emphasized our desire to work more closely with the Opportunity Youth themselves.

By directly engaging and collaborating with these youth, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of their needs, experiences, and challenges. This knowledge is invaluable for developing policies and programs that are truly effective and meaningful for the youth we serve. We hope that by learning from our Opportunity Youth, we can help to empower them and give them a glimpse inside the legislative process. Our goal is to show that their opinions and experiences are being taken seriously, hopefully resulting in our youth feeling more invested in the policies and programs that are being created on their behalf.

We also agreed to more thoroughly research and develop our OYAH priority bills. We need a complete, nuanced understanding of every measure we support in order to best promote the intentions and desires of our member organizations.

## Judges' Circle Meeting Update:

On Friday, April 14th, members of Family Court, Indigenous Court, and various community providers were to meet at Kupa 'Aina farm for a quick visit, then head over to Kinai 'Eha to talk more about community innovations/solutions in culturally relevant restorative justice approaches.

This meeting has been rescheduled to a later date.

## Join the OYAH Policy Team at the Capitol - Friday, April 21

Hele on down to the Capitol on Friday, April 21st, to hang out with the OYAH Policy initiative and interns, learn about the legislative process, and get some hands-on experience with our lawmakers, policy workers, and the incredible people who work hard every day to affect meaningful change in our community!

