

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i

February 28, 2024

House Committee on Finance

Hearing Time: 10:00 am

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 308

Re: HB 2042, HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawai‘i hui, we are writing in **strong support** of HB 2042, HD1 relating to mental health. This bill appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in Hawaii.

Amid growing mental health issues for Hawaii’s youth, investing funds to raise awareness for youth mental well-being and providing the necessary tools to combat adverse mental health is essential to long-term youth development.

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 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 HB 2042, HD1.**