

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

Hearing Held for HB 470 Youth Right to Housing Bill



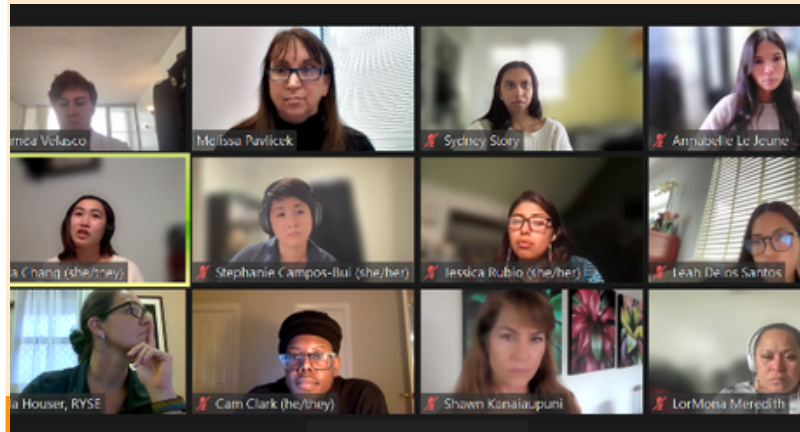
Rep.
John
Mizuno
chaired the
hearing for
HB470

On Tuesday, January 31, the House Committee on Human Services held a hearing for HB470 relating to the sunset date set for Act 23 this upcoming July. Act 23 was enacted in 2021 to allow more organizations, RYSE for example, to provide emergency shelter for youth. Melissa Pavlicek provided testimony on behalf of OYAH in support of HB470 and called attention to the importance of keeping the language in HB470 unrestricted in order to provide emergency shelter for all youth in crisis. The bill passed the committee for further consideration.

Judges voice support for Act 26 Which Passed in 2020

A legislative briefing on January 24, chaired by Rep. Della Au Belatti, highlighted the intersection of mental health treatment with substance abuse and homelessness. In 2020, the legislature passed Act 26, a pilot program that addressed mental health treatment diversion for non-violent petty misdemeanors. State Court judges Shimozono and Kawamura spoke in favor of Act 26 and emphasized the need to prioritize effective policies for supporting individuals with mental illness who have been involved in criminal activity.

OYAH Policy Team Meets with U.C. Berkeley Policy Clinic



On January 30, the OYAH Policy Team held a meeting with U.C. Berkeley Policy Clinic representatives to discuss upcoming legislative priorities. The OYAH policy team had previously met to create connections and to find common ground for collaboration. The U.C. Berkeley Policy Clinic has helped draft and offered testimony in support of HB317 (relating to youth fines and fees) and continues its dedication to promoting restorative justice measures that can be taken advantage of with the unique organizations of Hawai'i.

Editors:

**Leah Delos Santos, Sydney Story &
Haimea Velasco**

1099 Alakea St., Suite 2530

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

(808) 447-1840

www.oyahpolicy.com