

NOVEMBER 26, 2021

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

An initial cohort of University of Hawai'i college student advocates has been engaged by members of the Opportunity Youth Action Hui to advance initiatives in support of the hui member organizations, including Native Hawaiian equity in the criminal justice system, workforce training and development, trauma-informed care, and the education, health and well-being of youth.

Hawai'i 2021 legislation sets the stage for 2022 Policy Initiatives

The OYAH Policy externs have reviewed 2021 legislation and are recommending engagement on policies, including:

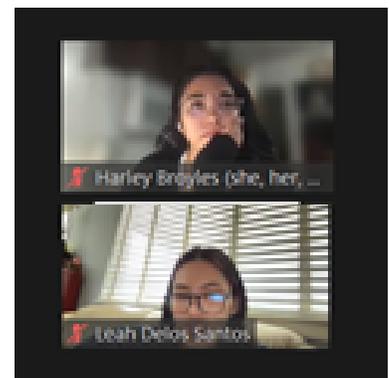
- **COMPOSITION OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH:** Requiring that at least 3 members of the state council on mental health have demonstrated knowledge of or work experience involving Native Hawaiian concepts of well-being, culturally-grounded mental health methodologies, or traditional healing or health practices.
- **TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE:** Act 209 was enacted in 2021, establishing a trauma-informed care task force within the department of health to make recommendations of trauma-informed care in the State. OYAH should monitor and engage with the task force.



- **CHILDREN/EMANCIPATION:** Allowing a minor who has reached the age of sixteen to petition the family court for emancipation. Requiring the court to take certain actions regarding investigation of the petition, appointment of legal counsel and a guardian ad litem for the petitioning minor, and the findings necessary to grant the petition. Specifies the rights gained by the minor upon emancipation.

Externship Program Planned for 2022

The inaugural cohort of OYAH Externs, Harley Broyles and Leah Delos Santos, convened students at the University of Hawai'i Wm. S. Richardson School of Law to stimulate interest in promoting Native Hawaiian Equity in the Criminal Justice System. They are laying the foundation for future cohorts, with the next tentatively scheduled for January 2022.



OYAH Policy Make Policy Recommendations

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ROOM CONFINEMENT OF CHILDREN AT DETENTION AND SHELTER FACILITIES: Establishing conditions and time limits for placing a child in room confinement at a detention or shelter facility.

CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT: Requiring the family court to appoint counsel to indigent parents in foster care cases and make every effort to do so at the first hearing attended by the parent.

CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS: Making an appropriation to the department of public safety for programs and services for children of incarcerated parents and to assist with family reunification. Requiring parental parity in divorce actions.

"Each of us can play a part in making an important difference in the lives of youth and young adults facing significant adversity."

- Shawn Kana'iaupuni

OYAH 2021 - 2022 Policy Priorities

- Improve and increase resources available for child and adolescent mental health programs.
- Improve the transition for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult programs and services.
- Eliminate housing discrimination.
- Secure a cost-of-living increase for the Imua Kākou stipend for young people aging out of foster care.
- Create a reporting system for the abuse of minors whose social security benefits are used by adults who no longer care for them.
- Promote a more holistic approach by agencies.
- Increase and improve the continuum of care for trafficked youth.
- Raise awareness about rights of minors to housing.
- Improve youth access to medical care.
- Gain approval for commercial opportunities for incarcerated youth concerning agricultural program.

How we reach and serve youth

NHPI youth are disproportionately impacted. Kawailoa promotes a restorative justice approach, rather than a punitive model, to reach and engage youth with consistent wraparound support.



Youth Outreach	Youth Inreach/ Diversion	Spiritual & Mental Health Support	Culturally-grounded Staff Training	Interconnected Programs
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