

February 08, 2023

House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans

Hearing Time: 09:00 a.m.

Location: State Capitol

Re: HB 1130, Relating to Corrections

Aloha e Chair Hashem, and members of the Committee:

We are writing in **strong support of** HB 1130, Relating to Corrections.

This bill will appropriate moneys to support a trauma-informed certification program for adult corrections officers at the Windward Community College campus of the University of Hawaiʻi and require the curriculum to include a level I trauma-informed care course designed for adult corrections officers.

The majority, if not all, of those in correctional facilities suffer from trauma of some sort. The people who interact with those in the facilities the most, the corrections officers, should have adequate training and be educated on trauma-informed care.

Our collective, Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi (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 support this measure.**

Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi 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 1130.**