

JANUARY 27, 2023

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## Priority Bills Coming Soon

As the session deadline for bill introductions has just passed, we are finalizing a list of measures that align with OYAH's policy priorities. We ask that OYAH members share with us any bills they are interested in us taking action on, or just tracking from afar. Further discussions of this list and particular bills is soon to come!

## New Ideas for Session

OYAH members have brought many new and exciting ideas to us for this session! Here are some of them:

- Creating and uploading virtual training videos for testifying at the Legislature so more people can get involved
- Include more youth advocates in our work -- sharing their personal stories can have great impact with legislators
- Educating decision-makers about the diverse groups of kids and different populations that are being served at Kawaiiloa -- needs and services are unique with various resource groups
- "Mentor Month" -- different members of OYAH meet with our team each month, guiding us and sharing with us their hopes for our policy efforts
- Meeting with members of the Judiciary -- a sort of "Judges' circle" -- to create a relationship/partnership with them
- Build a community to improve our advocacy work and outreach -- improving our website to foster communication with the public

We plan on implementing all of these ideas as best and as soon as we can! As always, mahalo NUI for your input and support!

## Our New Policy Team!

Led by volunteer attorney Melissa Pavlicek, our policy team has a bit of a new look. Welcome back Leah Delos Santos and Haumea Velasco as returning interns and let us introduce you to our new intern, Sydney Story!



Sydney is a first year student at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law. A graduate of Kamehameha Schools, she is eager to foster relationships with and learn from our OYAH community members this legislative session!



Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni (above), the CEO of Partners in Development Foundation, and other OYAH members recently met virtually with the policy intern team.

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and Haumea Velasco**  
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