

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES



E ala! E alu! E kuilima!
"Up! Together! Join hands!"

[A call to come together to tackle a given task.]

OYAH Supports the Kauhale Program

SB 3018, SD1 is related to Homelessness and would require the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, in consultation with the Department of Health and Department of Human Services to establish the Kauhale program to provide individual or shared micro housing units and services to homeless individuals and families who meet the definition of homeless. It establishes an advisory committee, requires reports to the Legislature, and exempts existing low-income rentals, tiny home villages, and kauhale from certain provisions for the duration of their underlying leases consistent with the Governor's 2015 and 2018 proclamations on homelessness.

Testimony in support was submitted on behalf of OYAH for this bill, and new testimony is ready to submit for its next hearing. The testimony acknowledges that this measure would provide opportunities for health and a better way of life for Native Hawaiians. Of the 4,448 people facing homelessness on the island of O'ahu, 51% identified as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) despite accounting for only 10% of the population (2020). This bill is a pivotal step in the efforts to advance Native Hawaiian health and equity in Hawai'i.

Current updates:

SB 3018, SD1 – This measure was amended and passed by the Senate Housing (HOU)/Human Services (HMS) committees, making the lateral deadline as it is referred to its last committee, Ways and Means (WAM). There is no WAM hearing scheduled yet, but support testimony will be submitted once it is announced, and the hearing will be monitored for notes.



Other bills of interest being tracked and monitored:

- *SB 2770, SD1 and HB 2311 (Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation)*
- *SB 1128, SD2, HD1 (Office of Youth Services)*
- *SB 2878, SD1 (Emancipation of minors)*
- *SB 3168, SD1 (Homelessness; 'Ohana Zones pilot program; housing)*
- *SB 3235 (Safe spaces for Youth Pilot Program)*
- *HB 1736, HD2 (Education; retired teachers employment during a state of emergency)*
- *SB 2481, SD1 (Youth Crisis Centers)*

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, mental health and well-being of youth.

Editors:

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