

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

March 4, 2022

The second cohort of 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.

WHAT MEMBERS SAY ABOUT OYAH'S POLICY WORK

"Hale Kipa believes that advocating at the State Legislature is the way we can inform Legislators of needs of target populations, the meaning and value of the changing of law or provision of services that can meet those needs and assist to build strong, thriving communities. It allows for each of us to express our opinion and make a difference."

- Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Hale Kipa

"One thing I've noticed about the policy interns is: they are passionate, smart, and supportive, you can tell they really want to help our community program staff and leaders create positive change for youth, which is a wonderful thing to see in young 'Oiwi leaders."

- Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni, Partners in Development Foundation

"The OYAH policy interns are energetic and well-informed and have been the driving force in increasing awareness and supporting OYAH's positions on certain bills."

- Anonymous

OYAH POLICY ADVOCACY RESOURCES

The collage features three distinct elements: on the left, a 'WEEKLY POLICY NEWS' newsletter with an orange header and various text blocks; in the center, a screenshot of the Hawaii State Legislature website showing a 'BILL TRACKING & MONITORING' interface; on the right, a document titled 'LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY' with a green header and several paragraphs of text.

[HTTP://WWW.OYAHPOLICY.COM](http://www.oyahpolicy.com)

The OYAH website is the place where you can find the bills we have testified on, our bills of interest, weekly newsletters, contact information and the Hawai'i legislature calendar and website. Check it out using the link above!

MA KA HANA KA 'IKE IN DOING, ONE LEARNS

So far, our experience working with OYAH has been a truly eye opening one, filled with tons of knowledge and appreciation. It is an opportunity to learn the legislative process, the actions being done to create change, and the perseverance that each and every person and bill holds.

Going into the internship, I (Lyla) did not have much prior knowledge to the legislative process. Since then, I learned how to write and submit testimony, take notes on bill hearings, navigate the Hawai'i legislature website, and much more. Gaining knowledge I can use while interning or even during school. In addition, doing my part in helping other 'opio, keiki and Hawaiians in Hawai'i, especially being both myself, has been a really fulfilling experience that, I think, benefits our entire kaiaulu (community).

EDITORS LEAH DELOS SANTOS
& LYLA GONSALVES
1099 ALAKEA STREET, SUITE 2530
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 447-1840