

MARCH 11, 2022

# OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

*E kaupē aku no i ka hoe a kō mai.  
"Put forward the paddle and draw it back."  
[Go on with the task that is started and finish it.]*

## **Bills of Interest Update**

Of the 150+ bills initially identified as having potential interest for OYAH, 75 are still alive!

Of the bills we have actively supported and provided testimony for, **seven** are alive.

Unfortunately, the emancipation bill and the Kauhale program bills did not make it out of their final committees in their originating houses and are not advancing.

However, these priority bills are still alive and progressing:

- **SB 2770**, SD1  
(Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Programs)
- **SB 1128**, SD2 HD1  
(Office of Youth Services (Commercial Revolving Fund))
- **SB 3168**, SD2  
(‘Ohana Zones)
- **SB 3235**, SD1  
(Safe Spaces for Youth)
- **SB 2481**, SD2  
(Youth Crisis Centers)
- **SB 3118**, SD2  
(Flavored Tobacco)
- **SB 2115**, SD1  
(Room Confinement)



*The Hawai'i State Capitol building is once again open to the public after nearly two years!*

We are excited and motivated now more than ever to direct our very best efforts towards advancing these bills, using OYAH's strong representation of the Native Hawaiian community and its services as a driving force for these policies.

## **OYAH Member Commentary:**

**Principal Lisa DeLong, EdD,**  
Olomana School:

*"Advocating at the state legislature has helped our group come together to define and articulate our priorities and speak with one voice."*

*"The interns help our Kawailoa partners track and influence pending legislation. They are learning as young adults that their voices matter and they can influence policy."*



*College student advocates have 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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