

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

Organizations Aligned with OYAH

Through many committee hearings on OYAH's policy priorities, we have noticed a few organizations that tend to testify on the same bills and in the same positions as OYAH. These groups seem to have similar interests and priorities as we do, and we thought we'd share them and their missions here!:

ACLU of Hawai'i

The ACLU of Hawai'i is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and American Samoa since its inception in 1965, working to ensure that the government does not violate fundamental constitutional rights of everyone – regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender expression, sexual orientation, or anything else and fighting for smart justice reforms, abortion access, gender equity, the right to privacy.

Hawai'i Youth Services Network

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) is a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations and a Pacific Islands Training and Technical Assistance Center, providing organizational capacity building via training and technical assistance to youth serving agencies in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands and helping youth organizations build partnerships and collaborations that bring millions of dollars in federal funding to Hawai'i.

Women's Prison Project

The Women's Prison Project is a 31-member coalition made up of former politicians, business leaders and prison reform advocates, who work to dramatically transform the way women are funneled through Hawai'i's criminal justice system.

Papa Ola Lōkahi

Papa Ola Lōkahi works to improve the health status and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians and others by advocating for, initiating and maintaining culturally appropriate strategic actions aimed at improving the physical, mental and spiritual health of Native Hawaiians and their 'ohana and empowering them to determine their own destinies.

Community Alliance on Prisons

Community Alliance on Prisons (CAP) is a community initiative working to develop effective interventions for Hawai'i's offenders and to improve the quality of justice in Hawai'i; CAP is a diverse coalition of community groups, churches, scholars, businesses, concerned community members, service providers, families of inmates, and ex-offenders.

Building Connections!

We were recently contacted by Amanda Chang, who is with the Policy Advocacy Clinic at Berkeley Law, which is working as a part of a national campaign for Debt Free Justice towards the abolition of fines and fees in the youth criminal legal system. Similar to OYAH, their team also has student advocates, including Chang, who are passionate about community care and public policy.

We are looking to set up a meeting, either in person or on Zoom, to share, connect, and support each other in our efforts!

Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic: "The nation's premier interdisciplinary clinic where law and public policy students team up to take on systemic racial and economic injustice."

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:

Leah Delos Santos & Lyla Gonsalves

1099 Alakea St., Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 447-1840 www.oyahpolicy.com