

MAY 20, 2022

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

Session Update!

Mahalo nui loa iā kākou for a wonderful state legislative session! The OYAH community's hard work has resulted in two priority bills making it all the way the legislative process to the Governor's desk where they are awaiting approval!

SB 2115, Relating to the room confinement of minors. This bill establishes conditions and time limits for placing a minor in room confinement at a detention or adult jail facility.

SB 3235, Relating to Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program. Among other provisions, this bill requires the Department of Human Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth.

The Governor has until June 27th to release his Notice of Intent to Veto list. The Governor then has until July 12th to either veto the bill or let it become law without his signature. Please note that the Governor can sign a bill into law at any time after he receives the bill. OYAH will submit letters of support to the Governor for these bills. Crossing our fingers for this final step! Mahalo again for all your hard work this session!

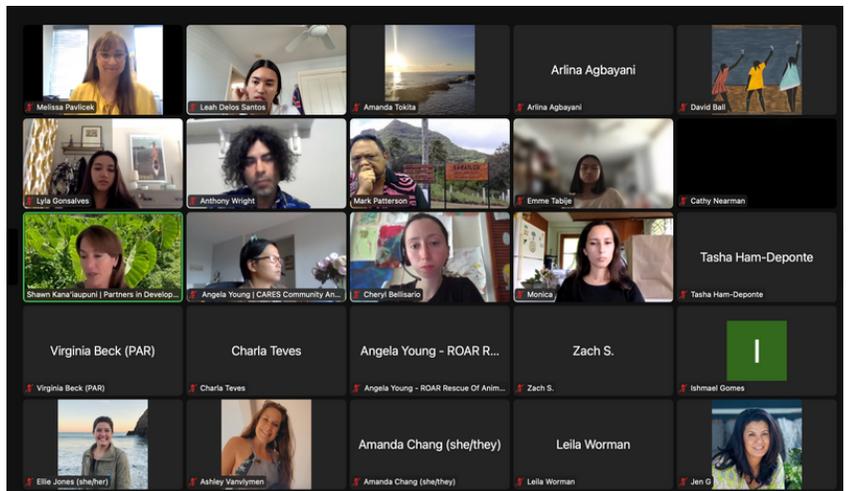
College student advocates have been engaged by members of the Opportunity Youth Action Hui to advance initiatives in support of the hui member organizations, including Native Hawaiian equity in the criminal justice system, workforce training and development, trauma-informed care, and the education, mental health and well-being of youth.

Advocacy Workshop Recap

Huge shout out to those who spoke at our "Ho'omana'o: Raise Your Voice" Virtual Advocacy Training on April 29 and especially our OYAH special guest speakers: Mark Patterson, Shawn Kana'iaupuni, and Lisa DeLong!

The purpose of the event was to educate the community about how and why to advocate and to share the OYAH story with younger potential advocates. We had an amazing turnout of students from high school all the way through graduate school. Attendees had many thoughtful questions, facilitating interesting and educational discussion. A highlight was high school sophomore Arwen Revere who wrote a guidebook on how to testify at the legislature. We also met representatives from other organizations who've become interested in our work, supporting the idea of encouraging youth to take legislative action.

We are hoping to hold more events like this in the future!
E ho'omau kākou!



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