

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

Bail Reform Bill Update

HB 1567, HD1, SD1, CD1 eliminates the use of monetary bail and requires defendants to be released on their own recognizance for certain nonviolent offenses, subject to certain exclusions. The measure requires the department of public safety to take steps to provide videoconferencing to a defendant who chooses to participate in a bail report interview via videoconference.

The OYAH policy team has been monitoring this bill (no actions taken) ever since it was brought to our attention after meeting with a group from the Policy Advocacy Clinic at UC Berkeley Law. They, too, were working on a bail reform project.

HB 1567 appeared to be a step toward equity within the criminal justice system as well as decreasing the overcrowding of Hawai'i's prisons. The large majority of testimony throughout session was in support of this bill. However, HB 1567 has faced public pushback since reaching Governor Ige's desk.

It appears likely that the governor will veto the bill this session. We are in communication with Rep. Scot Matayoshi who may want to coordinate legislative research in the off session. It looks like it may take a bit more time to achieve such bail equity, but we are hopeful that meaningful work can be done during the off-session to push this movement forward.

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.

Potential Actions

We have recently reached out to Representative Scot Matayoshi, one of the primary introducers of HB 1567, about his thoughts on the bill's future.

Rep. Matayoshi has plans to improve the measure and educate the public on its importance and potential positive impact on the community. He has introduced us to Erin Harbinson, the director of the Criminal Justice Research Institute. We look forward to exploring opportunities to work with her or align our efforts.

We are very excited to possibly help Rep. Matayoshi and his team on some of their endeavors, including research projects that can aid the campaign for bail reform in Hawai'i.



Governor Ige has until June 27 to approve or veto bills. On that date, he must notify the legislature of his intent to veto any remaining bills.

**Editors: Leah Delos Santos
& Melissa Pavlicek**

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