

JULY 15, 2022

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

State Legislation Enacted

After OYAH Policy Initiative's first session as a team, the advocates are very excited to announce that **three** of the priority bills that OYAH supported were **passed**:

SB 3235

Relating to Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program

This bill establishes the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services. It requires the pilot program to collaborate with all state and county departments that offer services to ensure the well-being of youth in Hawaii to coordinate the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth. It requires the Department of Human Services to contract with nonprofit organizations to provide shelters for homeless youth. It also requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025 and appropriates funds. It will be repealed on 6/30/2025.

HB 2309

Relating to Incarceration

This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Public Safety for identification card machines, to the Hawaii Paroling Authority for community housing for parolees, and to the Department of Health for a forensic peer specialist program. It requires a report from each entity prior to the regular session of 2024.

SB 2115

Relating to the Room Confinement of Minors

This bill requires certain children under family court jurisdiction to be taken without unnecessary delay to the court or place of shelter designated by the court. It establishes conditions and time limits for placing a minor in room confinement at a detention or adult jail facility.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

We are currently in the process of meeting with many legislators and stakeholders during the off-session to educate them about OYAH.

Who the policy interns have met with since the legislature concluded in May:

- Rep. Troy Hashimoto
- Rep. Richard Onishi
- Community Alliance on Prisons (Kat Brady)
- Criminal Justice Research Institute (Erin Harbinson)
- UC Berkeley Policy Advocacy Clinic representatives

Who we are seeking meetings with:

- Rep. Mark Nakashima
- Rep. Nicole Lowen
- Rep. Scott Nishimoto
- Rep. Linda Ichiyama
- Women's Prison Project (Linda Rich)
- Maui Chief of Police (John Pelletier)

Please let Leah know if you would like to attend any of these meetings by emailing her at hppaexec@gmail.com

Editors:

Leah Delos Santos &
Haumea Velasco

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