

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

JULY 29, 2022

OYAH Policy Intern Presents at CNHA Convention

OYAH Policy Intern Leah Delos Santos speaks at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement conference. Far right: intern Leah Delos Santos, Shawn Kana'iaupuni, and intern Haumea Velasco also pictured at the convention



On July 22nd, OYAH Intern Leah Delos Santos presented at the 21st Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement convention on behalf of the Partners in Development Foundation, featuring the important policy work of OYAH. Leah participated in a workshop that addressed policy within Native Hawaiian organizations, and highlighted OYAH policy priorities as well as successful measures from this past session. The community of engaged listeners looking to support Native Hawaiian policy developments heard about the passage of SB 2115 which will limit solitary confinement of youth and plans to re-introduce the youth emancipation bill next session.

College student advocates were engaged by members of the opportunity Youth Action Hui to advance initiatives in support of its member organization. Priorities include Native Hawaiian equity in the criminal justice system, mental health, trauma-informed care, and the education, and well being of youth.

Introducing OYAH New Policy Intern Haumea Velasco

Haumea is an incoming first year student at the Wm. S. Richardson School of Law. He previously worked on policy at the Maui County Council, administrative work in the Hawai'i State Senate, and served as the head intern at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office of Maui County. He is excited to be working for OYAH, and hopes to translate his experience for the benefit of opportunity youth.

Safe Spaces Pilot Project Featured

Honolulu Civil Beat recently published an article detailing the effect of programs offered at the Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center. Act 130 (2022) will support OYAH non-profit organizations such as RYSE.

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