

# Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

## Working with the UC Berkeley Policy Advocacy Clinic on Research Projects

The OYAH Policy Team recently met with the University of California Berkeley Policy Advocacy Clinic (PAC), a continuation of an ongoing collaboration, to discuss potential alignment on projects this upcoming legislative session.

The PAC provided insight on educating and engaging legislators and decision-makers, emphasizing the idea of the necessity of soliciting input from legislators' constituents and members of the public.

With this in mind, OYAH and the PAC discussed potential projects for community engagement, such as polling University of Hawai'i students (both undergraduate and law) for data and personal anecdotes to use in testimony, as well as encouraging said students to use their voice to submit their own testimony.



The PAC also offered to conduct their own research for data portions of OYAH testimony regarding the justice system. They said that they have every intention of supporting OYAH in its efforts towards promoting equity within the social and justice systems of Hawai'i.

After working with the PAC on multiple occasions, it is safe to say that they are an invaluable ally in our policy endeavors.

## About the UC Berkeley Policy Advocacy Clinic:

The UC Berkeley Policy Advocacy Clinic (PAC) is "[t]he nation's premier interdisciplinary clinic where law and public policy students team up to take on systemic racial and economic injustice."

In the PAC, "interdisciplinary teams of law and public policy students pursue non-litigation strategies to address systemic racial, economic, and social injustice. The clinic's approach is ground-up (rooted in the lives of real people), problem-based (addressing pressing social issues), and client-driven (accountable to community organizations). Students support local and state change campaigns while exploring the capacities and limits of law and public policy to solve problems.

*mahalo*

Mahalo to OYAH policy intern Haumea Velasco who recently completed his internship and has entered the Wm. S. Richardson School of Law.



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

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