

OCTOBER 14, 2022

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i Policy Initiative

A Bill on Bullying

On October 5th, Honolulu City Council Bill 52, relating to bullying of youth, passed its first reading unanimously. The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to "prevent bullying and [c]reate a protective environment for youths by prohibiting bullying in all city programs and on all city property, and prohibiting retaliation against persons who witness, report, or participate in any investigation into a suspected incident of bullying; and [p]rovide for intervention in suspected incidents of bullying by requiring city agencies and departments that interact with youths to implement policies and procedures for reporting and identifying incidents of bullying, protecting the targeted youth, and imposing sanctions on the perpetrators."

For this bill, "bullying" is defined as "any unwanted severe, persistent, or pervasive conduct against a youth by another person that [m]ay be based on the targeted youth's physical appearance or attire, or their perceived or actual sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, physical or mental disability, pregnancy status, socioeconomic status, or their association with others with such characteristics; [i]nflicts harm or can reasonably be expected to inflict harm on the targeted youth; or [s]ubstantially disrupts or materially interferes with the orderly operation of the city's programs, property, public services, or public resources."

"Bullying includes cyberbullying; physical bullying; relational bullying; verbal bullying; other severe, persistent or pervasive harmful conduct against a youth that serves no legitimate purpose, such as stalking the youth or repeatedly calling, texting, or emailing the youth despite the youth's requests to stop; and encouraging, supporting, or joining in with others on the severe, persistent, or pervasive harmful conduct against a youth."

Several members from the public testified in support of the measure, sharing personal stories of how bullying impacted their lives. We will continue to track the status of this bill.

HO'OMAIKA'I!

E ho'olaule'a kākou! It's official: OYAH has been named a recipient of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity Challenge 2030 Grant Award of \$20 million!

After years of hard work from OYAH members, this award is undoubtedly well-deserved. Kawaiiloa is recognized on an international stage as both a sanctuary for Native healing and a leader in the fight for restorative justice. We are very proud and beyond excited for the future.

But this is only the beginning! We cannot wait to see how OYAH uses this grant to continue the amazing work for Native Hawaiian youth and Kānaka Maoli as a whole.

Happy Pride!

We also wanted to wish everyone a happy October Pride, LGBTQ+ History Month, National Coming Out Day, and Spirit Day!

The Honolulu Pride Parade and Festival will be taking place on Saturday, October 15th - the first in-person celebrations since 2019!

Editors: Leah Delos Santos & Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea St., Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 447-1840
www.oyahpolicy.com