

March 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Health and Homelessness

Hearing Time: 9:00 AM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 329

Re: SB3125 SD2, RELATING TO MEDICAL CARE FOR MINORS

Aloha e Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenoushi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SB3125 SD2, relating to medical care for minors. This bill authorizes minors who are 14 years of age or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

Allowing youth who are under the age of 14 to consent to medical care for STDs and other family planning services empowers youth held back from caring for themselves due to parental neglect or abandonment. This is especially important for youth dealing with trauma-based health issues who are unable to receive care. Furthermore, prioritizing the protection of a youth seeking treatment through proper confidentiality policies is often paramount to ensuring they are safe from what can often be a volatile home situation.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB3125 SD2.**

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