

**OPPORTUNITY
YOUTH
ACTION HUI**

5 April 2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Time: 10:40 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Re: SCR 222 (AND SR 215) REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND HOW TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT FUNDING MECHANISM TO ALLOW THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES TO GENERATE INCOME TO SUPPORT ITS VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

We are writing to comment on SCR 222 and SR 215. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui is in support of SB 1128 which permits individual vocational programs within the purview of the office of youth services to engage in commercial enterprises, including the sale of goods and services, for self-sustainability purposes, for young adults only. SB 1128 would establish the office of youth services revolving fund. We are hopeful that SB 1128 will be advanced this session and if it is not that SCR 222 and SR 215 pass.

The Opportunity Youth Action Hui 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.