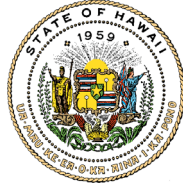


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**RYAN I. YAMANE**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**JOSEPH CAMPOS II**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

**TRISTA SPEER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the Annual Report of the Hawaii State Youth Commission for the State fiscal year 2024 to the Governor and Legislature submitted per section 352D-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Per section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ryan I. Yamane.

Ryan I. Yamane  
Director

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office  
Lieutenant Governor's Office  
Department of Budget & Finance  
Legislative Auditor  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (one hard copy)  
Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (two hard copies, one electronic copy)  
Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (one hard copy)



**Annual Report**  
**July 2023 – June 2024 (FY 2024)**  
**The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission (HiYC)**

Prepared by

Logan Yogi, Zoey Duan, Marissa Matsumoto, Jade Frank, Hana-Lei Ji, Shanoa Quanan, and Kim Sunio

HiYC Chair, HiYC Vice Chair, HiYC Secretary, Legislative Lead, and Legislative Topic Leads

Submitted to

Governor Josh Green and The Hawai‘i State Legislature

### **HiYC Mission Statement**

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission is a constellation of youth, connected to our past and mindful of our future, who engage in public-policy advocacy through a commitment to inclusivity, opportunity, and progress in Hawai‘i.

## **1. Introduction**

Formed four years ago, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission (HiYC) has been dedicated to engaging and empowering youth across the state to articulate their voices and perspectives to the Governor and State Legislature on legislative policies, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of Hawaii. The 15 HiYC members (ages 14 to 24) are appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House, and current membership includes representation from Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Hawai‘i Island.

This year's main theme was outreach and exposure. As a result, we aspired to increase our community engagement and general awareness of our organization. Additionally, we wanted to continue fostering and growing our relationships with state leaders, whether through the legislature or various non-profits across the state. Internally, we wanted to increase engagement from all commissioners and create a more inclusive and collaborative working environment.

Overall, the commission has truly gone above and beyond to meet its goals. For one, the attendance rate for the commission averaged 75% or higher. As will be evident in reading through this report, HiYC was able to thrive through distances and achieve many goals through the multiple challenges encountered throughout its fourth year.

## **2. Summary of Year**

### **2A. General Business Report:**

- The Commission held full-member meetings twice a month (July 2023 - December 2023) and starting in January of 2024, every Sunday.
- All HiYC members were involved in learning about and connecting with each other through online meetings.
- HiYC took concurrent steps forward on multiple levels including:
  - The Aloha Spirit law with values of aloha and mālama at HiYC’s core helped to set a foundation of members bonding and developing (virtually but effectively) as ONE HiYC team/‘ohana.
  - All members completed essential training to meet the requirements to function as a State Commission:
    - (*Ethics Commission training* with follow-up consultation from Lynnette Santiago & Kee Campbell-trainers, and Daniel Gluck-Executive Director),
    - All Hawai‘i State requirements to be a commissioner and start HiYC were met.
  - Advanced training on legislative processes was provided to members, especially those on the Campaign Teams, by HiYC Legislative Lead Jade Frank.
  - HiYC members were also offered (and some completed) various training and event opportunities focused on youth issues and civic engagement.
  - Further projects that the HiYC completed were the Water Distribution as a response to the Shut Down Red Hill movement, a voter registration drive to

- o promote youth civic engagement, and raising awareness for the Lahaina Wildfires.
- o Additionally, the HiYC is also planning other projects including the World Tour in hopes to increase community outreach.

## **2B. Executive Team Report:**

The Executive Team of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission (HiYC) primarily focuses on 1) Internal Commission Administration and 2) External and Public-Facing Communications. Members of the Executive Team consist of the elected officer positions of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Legislative Leads well as additional volunteer committee members as applicable.

The executive team continues to refine the Three (3) Team System which divides commission responsibilities between the Executive Team, the Legislative Team, and the Connections and Leadership Development Team.

The Executive Team took on the task of laying out the structural foundation, organization, and protocol of the commission - knowing that we would carve out systems for future cohorts.

The Executive Team accomplished several other foundational milestones for the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission including:

- Continuing to improve the cadence, scheduling, and culture of Commission meetings
- Refined and passed the commission By-Laws and internal Commission procedures
- Filled all Youth Commissioner vacancies
- Running multiple elections and providing Officer Transition Documents and trainings for the next cohort of officers
- Coordination of a bottled water distribution event at Red Hill

As a passionate and dedicated group of keiki and young adults, the HiYC met for full-commission meetings on a weekly basis during the State of Hawai‘i legislative session and on a biweekly basis when the session was off. This year, the commission met online over forty (40) times. Members of the Executive Team tended to the day-to-day operation of these Commission meetings including the creation and publication of meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings, the running of full Commission meetings, and the authorship and distribution of weekly email newsletters to commission members.

In addition to internal commission administration, the Executive Commission oversees external communications, public relations, and social media operations. These responsibilities are fulfilled by the Communications Sub-Team of the HiYC, led by our Communications Director. This year, the Communications Sub-Team was concerned with setting the foundation for our public presence in the community. The HiYC worked with the Department of Human Services to create our own social media protocol. The innovative *Roadmap for Communication and Youth Engagement* plan details our external communications protocol -- empowering the timely, connected, and candid expression of young voices.

Along with the completed external communications protocol, the Communications Sub-Team of the Executive Team accomplished the following:

- Design and adoption of the official Hawai‘i State Youth Commission Logo
- Design and procurement of Hawai‘i State Youth Commission merchandise
- Creation, administration, and moderation of Facebook and Instagram pages for social media
- Design and publication of the official Hawai‘i State Youth Commission webpage
- Creation of original content designs for all media and public communications

As the team tasked with the internal commission administration and external communications, the Executive Team spent this second year focusing on how small details in protocol, structure, and procedure lead to a larger future for the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission. We were concerned with setting up inclusive meetings, clear channels of communication, and a strong introduction to the public. With a foundation that offers organization and leaves room for adaptation, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission can now focus its next year on the expansion of projects, community outreach, and the further empowerment of our peoples.

### **2C. Campaign Team Report:**

In pursuance of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s (hereinafter referred to as “HiYC”) founding goal of increasing youth participation in the public policymaking process, HiYC created a Legislative Team to provide youth insight on bills through the 2024 legislative session.

The Legislative Team is led by Jade Frank, who was appointed by the commission and provided an analysis of the 2024 Legislative Session below. The commission then adopted and subsequently focused its efforts on three overarching priorities. With vacancies now filled, the commission has effectively mobilized efforts to see our chosen priorities represented, advocated for, and supported throughout the 2024 legislative session.

#### **Legislative Session 2023 Analysis by Jade Frank:**

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission did its best to submit written and verbal testimony throughout the session on its legislative priorities, which covered a wide range of issues within the spheres of education, environment, housing, and public health. In doing so, every member was able to advocate on issues they were passionate about. Other members of the commission also gained a wider knowledge base of several important issues in Hawai‘i, preparing them well for future legislative sessions with and beyond the commission, as well as any of their future endeavors. Similar to last year, one bill the commission supported was passed: HB2177 HD1 (relating to menstrual equity).

On my end, I could have done a better job providing guidance to the legislative leads, who didn’t have as much direct experience in legislation as the leads last year did. Despite this, the leads this year did a great job coordinating members, choosing causes that everyone was passionate about, and submitting testimony for each bill chosen on time. I also believe that there

are two things that the commission could do to be more effective in future legislative sessions. First, our work could be more catered to youth needs if we started earlier and contacted legislators prior to the start of the session. By doing this, we could advocate for the introduction of more youth-centered policy. Second, we should build a stronger network of civically engaged youth by continuing to engage with youth-led organizations and schools throughout the year.

Three priorities for the 2023 legislative session:

A. Education Lead: Hana-Lei Ji

Within the commission, education has consistently been a top priority identified by commissioners over the years. The unique position of commissioners gives the Education Topic Committee meaningful insights to the current conditions and contexts of education in Hawai‘i, from a variety of perspectives. Many of us came to this committee with an understanding that education and the opportunities offered within the education system play a critical role in youth development and livelihood. The bills in our package represent a variety of perspectives as well as key issues identified for and by Hawai‘i’s youth.

The bill selection process represented the perspectives of the commissioners and the diverse experiences of youth in Hawai‘i. Our committee first met to share an idea of general topics that the commissioners were passionate about. Five broad themes were identified: teacher retention, Native Hawaiian education, post-high school pathways, civic education, and student well-being. Each committee member took time to look through bills on their own time to add to each theme, taking notes of pros and cons as well as similarities to other bills that were added. After more discussion, each member sent the Topic Lead their individual rankings of 5-6 bills. The education package reflects the priorities of the commissioners in the education committee; this also allowed for more ease with testimony writing as each commissioner had at least one bill they were passionate about. Of the 6 bills (not including any companion bills), hearings were scheduled for 3 (HB1653, SB2004, HB2177 HD1), all of which we provided verbal and written testimony on. HB2177 HD1 was passed - relating to menstrual equity and required the University of Hawai‘i to provide menstrual products free of charge to all students.

B. Environment Lead: Kim Ashley Sunio

In recent years, Hawaii has faced environmental concerns that impact our communities' livelihoods, such as the Red Hill fuel tank leak from 2021, which led to contaminated aquifers. Water, a basic necessity, became scarce to approximately ~90,000 citizens of Oahu. In appreciation of the protests and regulations, the Navy’s efforts followed with defueling the tanks in October 2023. In the same year, 2023, we observed Maui’s tragic wildfires that tore down the historical landmarks of Lahaina. These events have increased the urgency of shifting from our extreme human footprints that exhaust resources such as electricity to sustainable living practices.

The Youth Commission prioritized four environmental-related bills: SB636 SD1,

SB2675, HB1578, and SB2933. The Visitor Green Fee program, SB636 SD1, leverages tourism to conserve Hawaii’s natural resources through fees. This requires tourists and visitors to financially contribute to maintaining Hawai‘i’s culture rather than resource depletion. SB2675 includes the collaboration of the Hawai‘i State Energy Office, the Department of Agriculture, and the private sector on renewable energy projects for food security. Hawai‘i currently relies on imported food, which is not sustainable. This bill supports local agricultural food production to ensure food security, thus can eventually reduce carbon footprint. HB1527 and SB2933 propose constitutional amendments for the right to a clean and healthy environment. This implies maintaining air and water quality, a basic necessity in Hawai‘i citizens’ health and well-being. Combining these bills emphasizes taking small steps to reach a long-term shared environmental responsibility. Since February 16, 2024, SB2675 and SB2933 have passed the second reading of the 2024 fiscal year.

### C. Housing: Shanoa Quanan

As the housing crisis continues to worsen in the state of Hawai‘i, the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission decided that one of our legislative priorities will be to focus on bills relating to housing in this 2024 legislative session. There was great interest in this topic, because of its importance to the youth of Hawai‘i. Bills like SB2344 and SB2034 reflect that importance, as they were introduced as ways for the state to dedicate more funding to much-needed affordable housing. HB1631 also demonstrates the importance of housing to youth, as this bill was introduced as a way to create more affordable housing for educators who are responsible for the education of our youth. The last two bills that we supported were SB2779 and HB1059, which were both bills relating to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. We believe that we must represent the youth of Hawai‘i and that especially includes the native youth of this land as well. As this session comes to a close and none of our bills pass through the legislature, we will continue to advocate for our youth even harder in the next session.

In addition to Education, Environment, and Housing, the commission also decided to support a select number of public health-related bills due to their significant implications on the well-being of the Hawai‘i youth and of our local communities. The commission voted to support bills HB1778 and HB1563, as well as their companion bills, SB2691 and SB2304. HB1778, or SB2691, aimed to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products and mislabeled e-liquid products that contain nicotine, as well as to allow county ordinances and regulations on the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices to preempt state law. HB1563, or SB2304, aimed to allow counties to adopt ordinances that regulate the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices that do not conflict with and are more stringent than the state law that governs smoking. The commission strongly supported these bills because their efforts to restore local authority and regulate the sale of tobacco products is crucial to improving the health and lives of local youth, which are negatively and widely impacted by tobacco and vaping.

Throughout the 2022 Legislative Session, Team Leads were responsible for tracking legislation they deemed pertinent to their respective priority. Team Leads could develop “legislative packages” of the bills they were tracking, and come to the Commission for approval to submit testimony. The Commission then voted to support or refuse the legislative package, with the option of amending the packages to exclude specific bills. As the legislative session went on, the Team Leads proposed additional bills for support/opposition by the Commission. Team Leads tracked the following bills throughout the session:

Education Bills	Environment Bills	Housing Bills	Others
(i) SB665	(i) SB636 SD1	(i) SB2344	(i) HB1778
(ii) HB888	(ii) SB2675	(ii) SB2779	(ii) SB269
(iii) HB1653	(iii) HB1528	(iii) SB2034	(iii) HB1563
(iv) SB2004	(iv) SB2933	(iv) HB1631	(iv) SB2304
(v) HB1678		(v) HB1059	
(vi) SB2433			
(vii) HB2177 HD1			
(viii) HB157			
(ix) SB2010			

The Legislative Team, being the policy driver of the commission, was tasked with maneuvering through the workings of Hawai‘i’s government throughout its third year. We were tasked with creating training for commission members about the basics of the Hawai‘i State Legislature and how a bill becomes law before we could even select bills we wanted to support or oppose.

**2D. Connections and Leadership Development Team Report:**

The Connections and Leadership Development Team focuses on outreach and relationship building with organizations, youth allies, groups, and programs that advocate for youth voices to be heard. This includes HiYC connections with government officials such as legislators and state programs and staff that link directly to HiYC.

Research and Community Outreach efforts through the past year include:

- a. Collaborative Connections were started with:
  - i. Partnerships between The Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders, Hawaii Youth Services Network, Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition, Punahou School, and



- various other school counselors and groups from across the islands were formed in order to recruit new commissioners.
- ii. The Commission conducted presentations with both Punahou School, Kealakehe High School, and with Common Cause Hawai‘i to introduce the commission, teach students how to submit testimony and inform them about ways to get involved in public policy and the commission itself.
  - iii. East Hawai‘i Commissioners held a voter registration drive at Waiakea High School, and produced numerous online resources informing the public on how to register to vote.
  - iv. HiYC, along with other members of the Hilo community, held a supply drive at Waiakea High School for those affected by the Lahaina fires, and created a social media campaign to direct the public on ways to support the affected community.
  - v. The Youth Commission collaborated with the Shut Down Red Hill Initiative group to lead a water distribution initiative to the affected community.
    1. The two groups discussed points of further collaboration and plans to connect with the constituents of Red Hill to discuss policy solutions.

## **2E. Budget Report:**

Treasurer Eric Pōmaika‘i Gee worked with HiYC members to accommodate the various budgetary needs, priorities, and projects of the Youth Commission. One of the goals that the Commission wanted to achieve this term was to utilize a portion of our budget for the betterment of youth and our islands. With this, the commission hosted an event on O‘ahu to bring the commissioners together in person. This event will be held at Camp Pālehua and will consist of leadership training, parliamentary procedure breakdown, and introducing the new commissioners to the Sunshine Law.

The final HiYC Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is balanced. Please See **“ATTACHMENT A.”**

## **3. Goals for Term from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:**

- Expansion of HiYC Community Outreach. We hope to build the HiYC community for the 2024-2025 term through initiatives to highlight existing youth-led projects, survey youth legislative priorities, connect with youth organizations, and identify and reach out to marginalized youth populations.
  - Transition plans for new HiYC Elected Officers. Officers for the 2024-2025 HiYC Term have been elected. The following newly elected cabinet is:
    - Chair: Misty Cruden
    - Vice Chair: Marli Mason
    - Secretary: Mei Kanada
    - Treasurer: Kim-Ashley Sunio
    - Legislative Lead: Hana-Lei Ji

- Legislative Team Management: HiYC plans to get more involved in the legislative process in addition to testimony writing. These goals include forging connections with legislators, preparing for the legislative session earlier to lobby for bills, and spearheading our own bills.
- Community Outreach: Given the success of this fiscal year’s outreach efforts, the commission desires to undertake more community outreach and service projects that engage and empower youth in the community to get involved with the issues they see. The commission also hopes to form connections with more public and private schools to strengthen our student network within the state.
- Social Media Presence. A strong Communications and Social Media presence is essential to meeting all goals of the HiYC. The HiYC hopes to further develop its content creation and social media outreach to connect with all youth communities. The HiYC also hopes to continue its work with government officials on efforts such as the creation of a Hawai‘i State Youth Commission Webpage to publicize meeting information and community resources so the HiYC can become the Youth Resource Hub for the entire state.

#### **4. HiYC SUMMARY:**

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission has seen tremendous growth over the past fiscal year, both internally and externally. For the first time since its establishment, the commission will finally see full, complete membership. Additionally, as the size of the commission has grown, the makeup of the commission more fully reflects the diversity of youth on the Hawaiian islands. We hope to further develop the educational, cultural, and political diversity of the commission in our future recruitment cycles.

Additionally, the commissioners have taken direct action in response to numerous pressing concerns facing their homes. In response to the upcoming state and national elections, a voter registration drive at Waiakea High School and an informative social media campaign were created to increase youth political participation. Furthermore, in response to the devastating Maui wildfires, commissioners held a supply drive in Hilo and launched an online awareness campaign. Finally, in response to the Red Hill water contamination disaster, commissioners launched a water distribution event of over \$5000 worth of bottled water, five-gallon jugs, and water dispensers for affected members of the community. Ultimately, the successful activism and community outreach efforts undertaken by the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission this fiscal year demonstrate the effectiveness of youth-driven community service in the state.

Finally, through increased legislative involvement in the 2024 session, the youth voice was substantially more present in the state legislature than ever before. The HiYC pursued a substantial number of bills in the areas of education, the environment, and housing, of which a few bills relating to education and the environment were passed. Following these major legislative accomplishments, the commission aims to increase its involvement within the state through partnerships with legislators, students, and non-profits in the upcoming years to establish intergenerational equity and build a better future for Hawai‘i.

Hawai'i State Youth Commission  
 Annual Report  
 Fiscal Year 2023

Attachment A

Hawai'i State Youth Commission Budget Report

HiYC Budget Proposal FY 2023 (July 2023 - June 2024)		\$12,000 Total Budget	
		SPENDING BUDGET--> \$1,934.00	
Item	Proposed amount	Description	Actual/Decided Amount
Zoom	1499	Zoom Pro annual subscription	\$14999
Canva for Teams	1499	Canva annual subscription	\$14999
Swearing In Ceremony Stipends		Flights and ground transit for Youth Commissioners	\$2,316.00
1st Stipend (December)	2100	150 x 14	\$2,100.00
2nd Stipend (June)	2250	150 x 15	\$2,250.00
		Breakfast - \$220.00 Lunch - \$260.00 Base Price:\$260.00 Dinner - \$320.00 Halawai Conference Room - \$98.70 Hale Kokua (2 Night(s), 1 Guest(s)) - \$453.65 Holo Lio (2 Night(s), 20 Guest(s)) - \$1,550.27 Halawai Conference Room - \$98.70 Halawai Conference Room - \$98.70  Total: \$3,100.02  Base Cost: \$2,870.00  Tax/Fee Total: \$230.02  Deposit Cost: \$1,490.01  Paid: 00.00  Balance Due: \$3,100.02	
Camp	3100.02		\$3,100.02
Project (#1)			
Project (#2)			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12000</b>		<b>\$10,066.00</b>