

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 425**

CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

DIR 22.023

August 3, 2022

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

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

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

Enclosed is the report to the Governor and Legislature submitted per section 352D-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Annual Report of the Hawaii State Youth Commission for State fiscal year 2022.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Betts", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cathy Betts  
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)

# **REPORT TO THE THIRTY-FIRST HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE 2022**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF

Section 352D-11, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Annual Report of the  
Hawai'i Youth Commission, State Fiscal Year 2022

Hawai'i State Youth Commission  
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
August 2022



## **Annual Report**

**July 2021 – June 2022 (FY 2022)**

### **The Hawai'i State Youth Commission (HiYC)**

Prepared by

Kainalu Morimoto

Member of HiYC & Legislative Lead

Submitted to

Governor David Ige 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**

Act 106, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018 established the Hawai'i State Youth Commission (HiYC) to engage and empower youth to articulate their voices and perspectives to the Governor and Legislature on legislative policies, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of Hawai'i. Per section 352D-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the 15 HiYC members (ages 14 to 24) are appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House. Current membership includes representation from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island.

While there were many goals for year 2 of HiYC, there were just as many challenges. In November and December of 2021, four Commissioners resigned, followed by the resignation of the HiYC Coordinator/Administrator. HiYC officers have put together a sub-committee to look for four new members. In June 2022, three more members will be at the end of their terms.

HiYC faced and met special challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, HiYC members persevered and developed effective ways to connect electronically to grow as a strong Commission with the spirit of aloha as its foundation. As evident in this report, HiYC thrived through distances and achieved many goals through the multiple challenges encountered during its second year of existence.

## **2. Summary of Year**

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

- The Commission held full-member meetings twice a month (May 2021 - May 2022).
- All HiYC members were involved in learning about and connecting through online meetings and developing new knowledge and skills through completing training via Zoom.
- HiYC took concurrent steps forward on multiple levels, including:
  - The Aloha Spirit law with values of aloha and malama at HiYC's core helped to set a foundation for members bonding and to develop (virtually and 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),
    - *Sunshine Law and Rogers Rules training* by Parliamentarian, Dr. William Puette), and
    - Commissioners met all Hawai'i State requirements to be a commissioner and start HiYC in consultation with Sharon Ibarra, State Director of Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor.
  - Advanced training on legislative processes was provided to members, especially those on the Campaign Teams, by HiYC Campaign Team Co-leaders Kawika Pegram and Kaneala Peters-Clark.
  - Members also utilized the information, training, and knowledge offered on the State Public Access website, including the Office of Information Practices (OIP) website, and consultation with OIP attorney Don Amano.
  - HiYC members were also offered (and some completed) various training and event opportunities focused on youth issues and civic engagement, including learning about the changes to legislative sessions due to COVID-19 challenges.

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

The Executive Team of the Hawai'i State Youth Commission (HiYC) primarily focuses on 1) Commission administration (budget matters also fall under the Executive Team purview and will be detailed in a later section) and 2) External and public-facing communications. Members of the Executive Team consist of the elected officer positions of Chairperson, #1 Vice-Chairperson, #2 Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Director, and additional volunteer committee members.

The Executive Team continues to refine the Three (3) Team System, which divides Commission responsibilities between the Executive Team, the Campaign Team, and the Connections and Leadership Development Team.

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

The Executive Team accomplished several other foundational milestones for the HiYC, including:

- The refining, re-writing, and adoption of Commission Values and Meeting Considerations,
- Continuing to improve the cadence, scheduling, and culture of Commission meetings,
- Working on by-laws and internal Commission procedures,
- Running multiple elections and providing Officer Transition Documents and training for the next cohort of officers, and
- Coordination and assistance of a donation and distribution event with Hui Aloha.

As a passionate and dedicated group of keiki and young adults, the HiYC met for full-Commission meetings weekly during the State of Hawai'i legislative session and biweekly 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 creating and publishing meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings, running full-Commission meetings, and authorship and distributing weekly email newsletters to commission members.

In addition to internal Commission administration, the Executive Team oversees external communications, public relations, and social media operations. The Communications Sub-Team of the HiYC, led by our Communications Director, fulfilled these responsibilities. 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, and
- Creation of original content designs for all media and public communications.

As the Team tasked with the 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 more significant future for the Hawai'i State Youth Commission. We were concerned with setting up inclusive meetings, clear channels of communication, and a solid introduction to the public. With a foundation that offers organization and leaves room for adaptation, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission can now focus next year on expanding projects, community outreach, and further empowering our people.

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

Pursuant to HiYC's founding goal of increasing youth participation in the public policy-making process, HiYC created a Campaign Team to provide youth insight on bills through the 2022 legislative session.

The Campaign Team is led by two Legislative Leads elected by the Commission. The Commission then adopted and subsequently focused its efforts on three overarching priorities. Although the Commission initially voted to have five priorities, conditions surrounding two commissioners' availability meant we could only support three priorities. Furthermore, we have faced challenges surrounding the appointment of several vacant spots, which remain empty today after multiple attempts to have filled by the appropriate channels. Our legislative reach could have been much more impactful if these spots were filled in an appropriate timeline. Now that state statute has allowed us to fill our seats, we look forward to bringing new youth to the table and a more effective Commission.

These are the three priorities for the 2022 legislative session:

#### **1. Education Lead: Maile Crowe**

The HiYC believes education is our most powerful tool for achieving our goals. To advocate for a meaningful and impactful education is to advocate for a meaningful and impactful youth commission. A better education system means a brighter and better future for our Keiki and young adults.

#### **2. Voter Registration Lead: Keola Kaniho**

In a time of hyperpolarization surrounding the voting booth, we find it necessary to advocate for more accessible and equitable voter education. Young people in Hawai'i represent a massive portion of voters, and our collective voice will enable us to build the

society we want and deserve.

### 3. Mental Health Lead: Charla Teves

Even before the pandemic occurred, our generation had been wrought by increasing cases of anxiety and depression. Unfortunately, the pandemic has only worsened things. This HiYC hopes to help alleviate the ongoing mental health crisis by advocating for sustainable and materially helpful solutions for those of us in this generation and beyond.

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:

Mental Health Bills	Education Bills	Voter Registration Bills
(i) HB 1666	(i) HB 2126	(i) HB 1883
(ii) SB 3234:	(ii) HB 1914	(ii) SB 15
(iii) HB 1599	(iii) HB 1949	(iii) SB 13
(iv) SB 2467	(iv) HB 2498	(iv) SB 3226
(v) HB 2205	(v) HB 1699	(v) SB 2162

Additionally, the Commission submitted testimony on SB2587, Relating to the Youth Commission. Had this bill passed, the Youth Commission would have the authority to appoint its executive director.

The Campaign Team, being the policy driver of the Commission, was tasked with maneuvering through the workings of Hawai'i's government throughout its second year. The Campaign Team created training for Commissioners 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.

Without a Commission administrator and missing several Commissioners, our Team underwent severe challenges going into the 2022 legislative session. We applaud our Legislative and Priority Leads for their persistence despite these hurdles. The Office of Youth Services is currently recruiting a new HiYC Coordinator, which we hope to have before the 2023 legislative

session starts. Additionally, we invite the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House to work collaboratively with us to fill the vacant positions in our Commission as soon as possible.

## **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. Outreach and relationship building includes HiYC connections with government officials such as legislators, state program administrators, and program staff that link directly to HiYC.

This Team addresses the development of HiYC member leadership and advocacy skills, including training plans and other opportunities and resources for HiYC member leadership development. The concerns and needs of Hawai'i youth, including special groups, will be a core theme as HiYC moves forward. This Team will also support HiYC Commissioners to sustain internal and forever HiYC connections for alumni and current members.

Research and Community Outreach efforts include the following:

- i. 2020-2022 Children & Youth Summits - HiYC member Kierra Thompson is a lead coordinator for this year's 2022 Summit, and Kierra also co-led planning for the 2020 and 2021 Summit. The Child & Youth Summit is a collaborative effort with Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) and the Children and Youth Summit Planning Committee, which HYSN Executive Director Judith Clark chairs.
- ii. The Hawai'i Interagency State Youth Network of Care (HISYNC): HiYC conducted an introduction presentation to HISYNC in May 2021. Kierra Thompson worked on this effort with Regina Ann Torres Jacobs, HISYNC Program Coordinator.
- iii. The Youth Commission collaborated with Hui Aloha to provide school supplies to youth at Pu'u honua 'O Wai'anae.

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

HiYC Treasurer Logan Yogi worked with HiYC members to be flexible through the year and to plan for budget changes and uncertainties. The Youth Commission's goal is to utilize a portion of our budget for the betterment of youth and our islands. Therefore, in partnership with Hui Aloha, we decided to undertake a donation/service project involving donating school supplies, backpacks, and shoes to houseless youth living in Pu'u honua 'O Wai'anae.

The final HiYC Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is balanced. Please See "ATTACHMENT C."



**3. Goals for Term from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022:**

- Expansion of HiYC Community Outreach. At a Commission meeting on June 8, 2021, Commissioners identified the expansion of HiYC community outreach as the most urgent goal for the upcoming term. We hope to build the HiYC community for the 2021-2022 term through initiatives to highlight existing youth-led projects, survey youth legislative priorities, connect with non-profits, and identify and reach out to marginalized youth populations.
- Completion of Policies, By-Laws, and Internal Processes. For this upcoming term, the HiYC plans to continue the creation and completion of new policies, by-laws, and internal processes, which includes the following projects:
  - Recruitment of new Commission members. With the completion of 3 Youth Commissioners' terms and the vacancy created by the resignations of 4 additional Youth Commissioners, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission asks the Governor and State Legislature to work with the Youth Commission collaboratively to fill the vacancies swiftly.
  - Transition plans for new HiYC Elected Officers. Officers for the 2022-2023 HiYC Term have not yet been elected. New officer elections will take place in August 2022.
  - HiYC By-Laws. The Executive Team and General Business Writing Team will work together on HiYC by-laws to fill HiYC program gaps not covered by the HiYC Act.
- Development of the HiYC Connections & Leadership Development Team. Plans include the development of roles and goals for Specialized Leads and Teams. For example, areas may include Education, Pacific Islanders, an Ambassador/Alumni component, a Logistics Team, a Writing Team, and possibly others to cover specific groups and areas not already covered under the Executive and Campaign Teams.
- Strengthen and Expand Communications and Social Media Presence. A strong Communications and Social Media presence are essential to meeting all goals of the HiYC. The HiYC hopes further to 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.
- Continuing to develop as ONE HiYC 'Ohana/Team. Aloha and malama are core values of the HiYC. The HiYC will continue to uplift the aloha culture of the Commission. The HiYC will embrace opportunities to share new energy and ideas, innovation, inspiration, and hope which will help to move us out of the old "normal" world and help lead Hawai'i into a post-COVID 19 changing world--with aloha.

**4. Goals for the Upcoming Term July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023:**

- Expansion of HiYC Community Outreach. At a Full-Commission meeting on June 8, 2021, Commissioners informally identified the expansion of HiYC community outreach as the most urgent goal for the upcoming term. During that term, we

worked with Pu'uuhonua O Wai'anae in planning and funding events to help keiki with their upcoming school year. We hope to continue working with Pu'uuhonua O Wai'anae and meet with other community organizations to help lift our lāhui for future generations.

- Reinforcement of Policies, By-Laws, and Internal Processes. For this upcoming term, the HiYC plans to continue to reinforce and update its new policies, by-laws, and internal processes, which include the following projects:
  - Recruitment of new Commission members. Recruitment is happening currently with the end of the first HiYC year, which coincides with the state Fiscal Year 2021. These first transitions include three (3) Youth Commissioners ending terms in July 2021. In addition, the HiYC must also prepare for and proactively consider the nine (9) member terms ending in July 2022.
  - Transition plans for new HiYC Elected Officers. Officers for the 2022-2023 HiYC Term still need to be elected in August 2022. In September, the current HiYC Officers will begin a transition plan and training program to prepare the newly elected officers for the next term.
  - HiYC By-Laws. The Executive Team and General Business Writing Team will work together to update HiYC By-laws to fill HiYC program gaps not covered by the HiYC Act.
- Strengthen and Expand Communications and Social Media Presence. A strong Communications and Social Media presence is essential to meeting all goals of the HiYC. The HiYC hopes further to 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.
- Continuing to develop as ONE HiYC `Ohana/Team. Aloha and malama are core values of the HiYC. The HiYC will continue to uplift the aloha culture of the Commission. As the commission hosts commissioners of different ages and counties, the HiYC will embrace opportunities to share new energy and ideas, innovation, inspiration, and hope which will help to strengthen the Commission's unity.

## 5. HiYC SUMMARY:

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission was created based on a clear need for youth voices within the Legislative process and beyond. Together, the Hawai'i State Youth Commissioners represent resilience and redemption in policy-making. Often burdened with the very difficulties the HiYC is designated to address, the members of the HiYC offer valuable insight into the future of Hawai'i. This second year was shaped by shared core values, foundational decision-making, and tenacious perseverance.

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Young people are the future. The HiYC will continue to advocate to the Governor and the State Legislature to hear youth voices when considering the implication of programs, budgets, laws, and policies on youth. Through the completion of our second year, we take our first steps toward creating our sustained presence within the community of Hawai'i and the fight for equity, respect, and dignity.

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Attachment C

A. HiYC Budget Report

Item	Description	Cost
Zoom	Zoom Pro annual subscription	\$ 150.00
Canva	Canva annual subscription	\$ 119.00
1st Stipend	250 x 14	\$ 3,700.00
Norton Anti-Virus x2	Norton Antivirus Plus (50% off) (protection for five pcs or macs)	\$ 32.00
2nd Stipend	250 x 11	\$ 2,750.00
Special Project	School supply drive/donation of backpacks filled with supplies and HiYC merch	\$ 5,249.00
Total:		\$12,000.00