Preparing for the Future:
Aloha and Democracy Must Be Learned By Every Generation

The 65th YMCA of Honolulu Youth & Government program was a success. Youth from Oahu and the Island of Hawaii participated in the traditional mock legislative & journalism program, our Youth Governor-Elect visited Washington DC for training with other Youth Governors, and six delegates attended the Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina.

76 PARTICIPANTS

56 SURVEYS

“ Youth and Government is just a small part of my life, but in my opinion, a very crucial part of my development into a better person.”

FIRST YEAR STUDENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Participation</th>
<th>1st Year</th>
<th>2nd Year</th>
<th>3rd Year</th>
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<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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52 I Feel More Confident

49 I Know More About Community Issues

44 I Feel My Voice and Opinions Are Heard

51 I Feel Welcomed By The Other Students

48 I Feel Like I Belong

49 I Want To Be More Involved

Attendance by Delegation

Kaimuki YMCA—14  Kalihi YMCA—19
Kau High School—10  Mililani YMCA—8
Nuuanu YMCA—9  Leilehua High School—1
Waialua High School—5
Waianae High School—2
Windward YMCA—8

YAG@YMCAHONOLULU.ORG
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Bills & Resolutions That Passed Hawaii YAG

*Making conversion therapy of LGBT minors illegal
*Requiring food establishments to donate their leftover food to organizations working with homeless & hungry
  *Appropriating funds to start a mobile study center for homeless children
*Creating an agency to focus on preventing Hawaiians from repeat incarceration
*Requiring a minimum of paid sick leave days in all private & public companies
*Requiring the DOE to create equality policies for transgender youth in athletics
  *Denying convicted animal abusers the ability to adopt animals
*Requiring suicide prevention training for all DOE personnel
*Allowing a “Life Skills Course” for credit in high school curriculum
  *Changing the definition of a “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle”
*Appropriating funding for body cameras for undercover police officers
  *Appropriating funding for five schools to receive solar panels
*Appropriating funding to expand the DARE program to high schools
*Increasing the minimum wage (higher than already passed legislation)
*Requiring a course on “Rape Culture” in high school graduation requirements
  *Making Hawaiian Language a required course in all high schools

Hawaii sent 6 delegates and 2 staff to the Conference on National Affairs on Black Mountain at Blue Ridge Assembly in North Carolina. One proposal made it to third committee (1 of 93 out of 637 proposals)

WORDS FROM A SECOND YEAR STUDENT

“Youth & Government, and the YMCA in general, helped me get through a lot. I was at a very dark time in my life, diagnosed with clinical depression, about to start medication, seeing a therapist every other day: it wasn’t exactly the highlight of my teenage years. However, a friend told me about YAG. I thought it would be a way to express my opinions and since I was on the debate team at my previous school, it seemed like a nice alternative. It seems cliché, but it really did change my life. I quickly gained a group of friends who helped support me through the changes going on in my life as well as a distraction from it all. It opened me up to other YMCA activities which just helped me expand my horizons more. Thanks to the YMCA and YAG I have friends from across the country whom I still keep in touch with everyday, as well as friends in other countries. I’m a lot smarter, more opinionated, intellectually inclined, happier and confident than I was before I joined this program. I hope that this program continues to grow so that other people can be affected by it as much as I have been.”

MOVING FORWARD

Program delivery and dates will alter one more time due to the feedback of youth, plus the cost of travel and ability for neighbor island delegations to fully participate. Conferences and sessions will be consolidated from three to two making it more efficient and cost effective. Funding provided by the Daniel K. Inouye Memorial Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation and Ward Village Foundation will be used by December 31, 2016 to provide continued financial support to youth in need on all islands.