



YMCA of Honolulu | Youth and Government Hawai'i

Youth & Government Student Officer's Roles

Youth Governor

The Youth Governor of Hawai'i is the single most active and involved member in the program. This individual not only leads the Legislative Conference, but helps to drive the direction of the program and support throughout the year.

Average Weekly Time Commitment:

Varies depending on what time of the year it is. Expect to be able to dedicate a significant amount of time to YAG preparation work in the weeks before conferences (4 hrs per week), and maybe 2 hours per week during periods in between.

In addition, you should expect to attend your own delegation's meetings (where possible) and be an engaged participant.

Any additional initiatives taken on by the Youth Governor require more time commitment.

Events Required to Attend:

While other Presiding Officers may be able to miss an event because of a pre-existing conflict, the Governor is required to attend the following core events during the Youth and Government year.

- The Youth Governor's Conference in Washington D.C. (approximately one week in June)
- Student Officer Training (Saturday in December)
- Pre-Leg Conference (Saturday in February)
- Legislative Conference (Friday-Sunday in March)
- Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina (approximately one week in July)

In addition, the Youth Governor is expected to be able to travel for events when available. These might include speaking engagements, club recruitment, advocacy, meetings with legislators, and more. The Youth Governor may also choose to hold Zoom meetings whenever necessary and should be present to support the YMCA at virtual training sessions when needed.

Communication Commitment:

You must be in contact with the YMCA, State Director, and Presiding Officers.

The YMCA of Honolulu expects prompt communication. The Youth Governor is the first line of communication to Presiding Officers and students across the state.

Expect to maintain at least weekly and sometimes daily communications.



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Responsibilities:

Responsibilities of the Youth Governor vary depending on their plans for the year, but must be dedicated to carrying out your platform, cultivating an effective administration (administrative duties include reading all the bills and crafting a legislative agenda). The Youth Governor must also be dedicated to cultivating a strong program through assisting with recruitment and other tasks when necessary.

Most importantly, the Youth Governor is the face of the program and the representative of Hawai'i on the national stage. It is important to maintain superb conduct.

Finally, it is the responsibility of the Youth Governor to first be in good standing with their schools. The YMCA of Honolulu aims to ensure that, while expectations may be high, students remain (first and foremost) students.

Election Window:

March (During Legislative Conference)

Debate Management Team

The Presiding Officers, Attorneys, and Clerks collectively form the Debate Management Team. Together, they are responsible for guiding legislative debate, maintaining chamber order, supporting delegates, and ensuring accurate records of all legislative action.

Members of the Debate Management Team should communicate regularly throughout the year and work collaboratively to create a positive, fair, and educational legislative experience for all participants.



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Speaker of the House / President of the Senate (Presiding Officers)

The Presiding Officer not only leads the House, but coordinates frequently with their Committee Chairs, Members of the Administration, and Representatives to ensure a positive experience for all parties.

Average Weekly Time Commitment:

Throughout the year the time commitment will vary. Expect about 4-6 hours a week prior to major conferences, 1 hour per week between, and any new ideas to be implemented will add time.

In addition, you should expect to attend your own delegation's meetings (where possible) and be an engaged participant.

Events Required to Attend:

- Student Officer Training (Saturday in December)
- Pre-Leg Conference (Saturday in February)
- Legislative Conference (Friday-Sunday in March)
- Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina (approximately one week in July)

The Speaker may also choose to hold Zoom meetings whenever necessary and should be present to support the YMCA at virtual training sessions when needed.

Communication Commitment:

You must stay in contact with the YMCA (weekly-biweekly), fellow Student Officers (daily), and Legislative leadership once elected (when needed).

Legislative Student Officers are often responsible for communicating with delegates as needed to answer questions, receive feedback, and provide instruction for newer members.

Responsibilities:

Command and preside over the house, read every bill prior to conference, help to train committee chair, prepare house training, and help each delegate's experience through new resources or personal assistance.

Election Window:

October-November



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Attorney

The Attorney serves as a key member of the Debate Management Team and helps ensure that legislative debate is conducted fairly, efficiently, and according to parliamentary procedure. The Attorney supports the Speaker during debate and serves as an expert resource on chamber rules and legislative process.

Average Weekly Time Commitment:

Throughout the year the time commitment will vary. Expect approximately 2 to 4 hours per week prior to major conferences, less than 1 hour per week between major events, and additional time if taking part in officer planning or training opportunities.

In addition, you should expect to attend your own delegation's meetings (where possible) and be an engaged participant.

Events Required to Attend:

- Student Officer Training (Saturday in December)
- Pre-Leg Conference (Saturday in February)
- Legislative Conference (Friday-Sunday in March)
- Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina (approximately one week in July)

Attendance at additional Youth & Government events, officer meetings, training sessions, and virtual workshops is strongly encouraged.

Communication Commitment:

You must stay in contact with the YMCA, Presiding Officer, Clerk, and other Student Officers as required.

Attorneys should be prepared to communicate regularly before conferences to review chamber procedures, receive updates, and assist with legislative preparation.

Responsibilities:

The Attorney serves as the chamber's primary resource on parliamentary procedure and legislative rules.

The Attorney plays a critical role in ensuring that all delegates have a fair opportunity to participate and that debate is conducted according to established procedures.

Election Window:

October-November



Clerk

The Clerk serves as a key member of the Student Officers and is responsible for maintaining the official records and documentation of the chamber. The Clerk helps ensure that legislative business runs smoothly and that delegates have access to the information needed throughout the conference.

Average Weekly Time Commitment:

Throughout the year the time commitment will vary. Expect approximately 2 to 4 hours per week prior to major conferences, less than 1 hour per week between major events, and additional time if taking part in officer planning or training opportunities.

In addition, you should expect to attend your own delegation's meetings (where possible) and be an engaged participant.

Events Required to Attend:

- Student Officer Training (Saturday in December)
- Pre-Leg Conference (Saturday in February)
- Legislative Conference (Friday-Sunday in March)
- Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina (approximately one week in July)

Attendance at additional Youth & Government events, officer meetings, training sessions, and virtual workshops is strongly encouraged.

Communication Commitment:

You must stay in contact with the YMCA, Presiding Officer, Attorney, and other Student Officers as required.

Clerks should be prepared to communicate regularly before conferences to assist with legislative preparation, chamber organization, and record keeping.

Responsibilities:

The Clerk is responsible for maintaining the official records and documents of the chamber.

The Clerk plays a vital role in ensuring the chamber operates efficiently and that all legislative actions are accurately documented.

Election Window:

October-November



Elections & Campaigning

Youth & Government elections provide students with the opportunity to campaign for leadership positions, communicate their vision for the program, and participate in a democratic election process.

Youth Governor Election

The Youth Governor election is held annually during the Legislative Conference in March. Delegates elect the Youth Governor who will serve during the following Youth & Government year.

This means that the Youth Governor elected at the Legislative Conference will spend the remainder of the current program year preparing for office before officially leading the program during the next Youth & Government cycle.

Candidates seeking the office of Youth Governor may campaign throughout the conference season and will have the opportunity to share campaign materials with delegates prior to voting. To support informed participation, candidates may submit:

- A candidate biography
- A campaign poster
- A campaign video

These materials will be shared through the Youth & Government website and other approved program communication channels prior to the election.

Voting is conducted in person during the Legislative Conference in partnership with the Hawai'i Office of Elections, providing delegates with an authentic election experience that mirrors real world voting procedures.

Debate Management Team Elections

Elections for the Presiding Officers, Attorney, and Clerk positions are conducted earlier in the program year to allow sufficient time for training and preparation before the Legislative Conference.

Interested candidates will participate in leadership preparation and training opportunities beginning in October. Elections will then be conducted through a secure digital voting process during November.



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Candidates for Debate Management Team positions may submit:

- A candidate biography
- A campaign poster
- A campaign video

These materials will be published through the Youth & Government website prior to voting to allow delegates to learn more about each candidate's qualifications, goals, and leadership approach.

Following election, members of the Debate Management Team will begin preparing for their roles through officer meetings, legislative training, and conference planning activities leading up to the Legislative Conference.

Campaign Expectations

All candidates are expected to demonstrate the YMCA Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility throughout the election process. Campaigning should focus on ideas, leadership, and service to the program while maintaining a positive and respectful environment for all participants.

Election procedures, timelines, and campaign guidelines will be provided annually by the YMCA of Honolulu Youth & Government program.