



YMCA of Honolulu | Youth and Government Hawai'i

Pathways to Civic Participation

There is no single 'right' way to create change with the best pathway depending on the issue, your interests and the community.

Many civic leaders use more than one pathway to help address a concern or support their community.

Community Service

Taking direct action to help people, places or causes in your community.

Examples:

- Organizing a beach cleanup
- Collecting food for a food bank
- Volunteering at a community fun run
- Helping younger students through mentoring

Youth Advisory Councils

A group of young people who give ideas, feedback and recommendations to schools, nonprofits, businesses, or government leaders.

Examples:

- Serving on the Hawai'i State Youth Commission
- Advising school leadership on student needs
- Helping a nonprofit design programs for teens

Public Testimony

Sharing your opinion, experience or expertise with decision makers before they make a decision.

Examples:

- Speaking at a city council meeting
- Testifying on a proposed bill in a Legislative Committee meeting
- Writing testimony for a public hearing

School Leadership

Taking a leadership role within your school to improve student life and represent others.

Examples:

- Student Council
- Club officer positions
- Leading school improvement projects



Community Organizing

Bringing people together around a shared issue or goal to raise awareness.

Examples:

- Planning a community awareness event
- Organizing volunteers for a project
- Creating a petition
- Building partnerships between groups



Social Media Campaigns

Using digital tools to inform, persuade, and encourage people to take action.

Examples:

- Instagram posts or an account addressing an issue
- Short advocacy videos
- Sharing resources and action steps about an online awareness campaign