Got something to say?

We'll give you 15 minutes to tell us at the YOUTH LEADERSHIP EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY 2012
Hawaii Convention Center as part of the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity

Eight young leaders will be chosen to give a 15-minute talk at this year’s Youth Leadership Empowerment Academy on one of the topic areas below. This opportunity is open to Hawaii’s youth, and scholarships are available for any neighbor-island youth who would like to participate. To be considered for this opportunity, send us a short summary (50-100 words) on what YOU want to say. To register for the Academy, or for a Scholarship application, visit our site at www.cds.hawaii.edu/livingtoourpotential/youth/

Your ideas and registrations must be submitted before March 10, 2012. If you’re coming from outer-island, send your scholarship in to us by March 10, 2012. You can send ALL completed forms to the address listed below, or submit online.

So here’s the scoop on our Open Mic Series: Pick ONE topic area, and ONE question to answer, keep it under 15-minutes. Send in a copy of your idea to us, and be sure to keep one for yourself! If we like your idea, we’ll contact you by March 14, 2012. Look at the topic areas below to see if anything moves you.
TOPIC AREAS INCLUDE:

- **MAKING EQUALITY A REALITY**
  Have you ever been called “stupid”, “retarded”, “ugly” or something else hurtful? Degrading isn’t it? Even now in 2012, we still have a long way to go before all humans are treated equally regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability (or ability) or religion.
  
  Tell us how you overcome inequality.
  
  What lessons can others learn from your triumph?
  
  What stereotypes and stigmas should we work to eliminate?

- **STRONGER VOICES**
  Do you feel ignored in our society? How can youth have a stronger voice when the government assumes what is best for us? Tell us the changes YOU would make if YOU were in charge.
  
  What services would YOU make more available to youth and others with disabilities?
  
  What changes would YOU make to services that are available now?
  
  What ideas do YOU have that would empower youth in your community?

- **VIOLENCE**
  Abuse can be a very sensitive issue to talk about, and sometimes it may seem like there isn’t enough support. How can we address issues regarding violence?
  
  What can we do to ensure that we are protecting ourselves from harm?
  
  How can we de-stigmatize victims of abuse?

- **BULLYING**
  1 in 7 students in grades K-12 is either a bully or a victim of bullying. The numbers continue to rise every month. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth in Hawaii.
  
  How do we stop bullying in schools?
  
  How can youth help each other from self-harm?
Express yourself! Write down your thoughts and send it in.

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You can fax your submission to 808-956-4437.

Please mail your completed forms to the address below (and don’t forget to save a copy for yourself!):

Center on Disability Studies  
University of Hawaii  
Pac Rim Team  
2012 Youth Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Committee  
1776 University Avenue, UA4-6  
Honolulu, HI 96822