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Waimanalo Demonstration Backyard Organic Gardening Project

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND BUSINESS CONCERNS**

Thursday, January 31, 2008
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2228
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR COMMUNITY-BASED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

TO: Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee members:

I write to request that you and the committee members support the Appropriation for Community Based Economic Development Program as we seek financial support for our Waimanalo community organic gardening. As often is the case, with adequate financial assistance and hard work, good things can and do happen and dreams can come true. We have attempted to plant and nurture vegetables utilizing natural products within our community and see the opportunity for another method of living in an eco-organic friendly environment. Needless to say, funding and support is necessary in aiding this worthy project. Can this method be successful? For sure, we need to secure funding in order for this to happen. Will your committee assist with your positive support and funding? An affirmative will certainly insure the much needed assistance we seek.

Bill HB 2228 will make a big difference for community in reaching our goal.

With much mahalo and appreciation, Kim Tasaka



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony

HB 2228 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

January 31, 2008

8:30 a.m.

Room 325

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee members:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **Strongly Supports HB 2228**, which makes an appropriation for DBEDT's Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Revolving Fund to assist qualifying community-based organizations. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals and we hope that the legislature will support, pass, and fund these ideas, together with priorities of the Executive's Supplemental Budget.

In review of this bill, the Attorney General's Office recommends that the following language be added to the bill to insure authority of the CBED Revolving Fund to disperse funding to our community organizations:

“There is appropriated out of the Hawaii community-based economic development revolving fund the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010, for low-interest loans and grants. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of this Act.”

CBED is an important program for Hawaii's Native Hawaiian community, especially in these times of scarce grant dollars and great community needs. This vital community program provides seed money in the form of grants and matching grants to community-based nonprofit organizations thereby establishing business development, marketing development, and capacity building for fledgling community organizations. With this start-up assistance, small organizations have the ability to establish themselves within their communities and can access larger funding through Federal, State, County and private funding resources.

OHA believes that the CBED program plays an important role in assisting communities in achieving their goals through economic development, capacity building, business development, and the marketing of goods and services from

the communities. It provides opportunities to communities in gaining small business skills, building capacity, and supports feasible ventures that meet community values and vision. Ultimately, the main outcome of a CBED funded project is job creation in the community. This is good for the communities in Hawaii and for the Hawaiian people.

OHA urges the Committee to **PASS HB 2228** that will provide sustainable community-based economic development for Hawaii's communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

wakai1-Karen

From: mike [mnagasaki@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 8:09 PM
To: EDBtestimony
Subject: Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Statement of
Michael Nagasaki
Project Manager
Kona Pacific Farmers Cooperative
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND BUSINESS CONCERNS**

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HB 2228
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DEVELOPMENT**

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee members:

The Cooperative strongly supports HB 2228.

The CBED Program is unique in that it provides planning (“seed”) grants and small implementation (matching) grants to community-based non-profit organizations to build capacity and develop businesses, marketing or other necessary planning documents in order to access larger funding through Federal, State, County and other private funding resources. Since its inception in 1991, the CBED grant and loan revolving fund and technical assistance program has committed more than \$4 million to more than 180 community-based organizations statewide. Approximately 67 percent of program funds were distributed to Neighbor Islands.

In fiscal year 2006, the CBED Program awarded just over \$260,000 in grant funds to 15 community organizations. Twelve of the fifteen organizations completed their grants in FY 2007. These organizations reported creating 163 new full-time jobs and 100 part-time jobs, the establishment of 72 new businesses, and assistance or expansion of 92 existing businesses. In technical assistance, CBED funds provided 12 organizations with one-on-one business planning or organizational capacity-

building assistance. More than 280 high school students were provided business training through workshops. And, more than 2,600 individuals representing more than 550 community organizations or agencies were provided community economic development training, information and assistance.

With adequate funding, the CBED Program can accomplish bigger and better results than reported in FY 2007. The CBED Program will play a major role in assisting communities achieve their goals and vision through economic development. CBED can provide our communities the opportunities to gain the *know-how* and skills to take control over local resources, become an active cooperative community, and provide more avenues for community empowerment.

There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We hope the legislature will see fit to support, pass and fund these ideas, together with priorities of the Executive's Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.