

Harry Kim
Mayor



Edwin S. Taira
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LATE TESTIMONY

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Alex M. Sonson, Chair
The Honorable Bob Nakasone, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

SUBJECT: House Bill 2964 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) supports House Bill 2964.

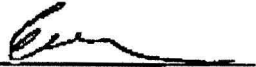
The OHCD is the grant recipient and administrator of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Reed Act funds for Hawai'i County.

In 2006, the Hawai'i State Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000 statewide (Act 190, 2006) for the Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) initiative: Going Home, Prison-to-Community Re-entry Initiative; Huiana, our island-wide high school student internship program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen Hawai'i County's workplaces through our business services center.

We are asking the State Legislature to appropriate \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable us to continue to support a growing network of WIB partners whose priorities include: expansion of a new disabilities consortium and its increased services to persons with disabilities, particularly our youth; expand Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve participants on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve the homeless.

As these programs help support the County's workforce initiatives, the OHCD respectfully requests your consideration and support of HB 2964.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


Edwin S. Taira
Housing Administrator

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PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER