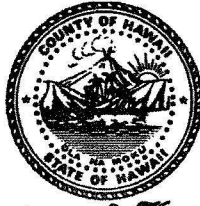


Harry Kim  
Mayor



Mark McGuffie  
Chairman

Michael Gleason  
Vice-Chairman

**County of Hawai'i**  
**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2484  
V/TT (808) 961-8379 • FAX (808) 961-8685

February 4, 2008

Rep. Alex M. Sonson, Chair  
Labor and Public Employment Committee  
Support of HB 2964 Relating to Employment Security  
Hearing: February 5, 2008 at 9AM

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Sonson and Committee members:

As Chair of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board, I ask for your support of HB2964 as it pertains to Hawaii County. In 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000 statewide (Act 190, 2006) for the four county Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Of that sum, \$1,900,000 came to Hawaii County. The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are justly proud of the initiatives that this money enabled, such as Going Home: our prison-to-community reentry initiative; Huiana: our island-wide high school student internship mentor program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen Hawaii County's work places through our business center and business services representatives.

We, in Hawaii County are asking the State legislature to appropriate \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable these initiatives to continue improving employer outreach and services, labor force pool expansion, capacity building, and providing support to 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 our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offender; and develop support programs to serve the homeless.

Supporting Hawaii County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass ~~SB2876~~  
HB 2964

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony before you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McGuffie  
Chair, Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board

Paula Thomas  
Delphi Pacific Communications  
787 Hele Mauna St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808.443.3032

## LATE TESTIMONY

Rep. Dwight T. Takamine  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Support of HB 2964  
Hearing: February 5, 2008 at 9AM

Dear Rep. Takamine and Committee members:

Aloha! I am writing on behalf of support for HB 2964, a bill which would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Huiana Internship Program, for which I serve as project manager. This program screens and recruits students interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internship experiences. The purpose is to provide the students with work-readiness and job training, to help them find career direction, and to open their eyes to the many opportunities on-island for possible long-term, future employment. All this is accomplished with a very tight partnership between the many vested organizations. Funding through HB 2964 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program now serving over 80 students with the potential to be serving hundreds.

I ask for your support of HB 2964 as it pertains to Hawaii County. In 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000.000 statewide (Act 190, 2006) for the four county Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Of that sum, \$1,900,000.00 came to Hawaii County. The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are justly proud of the initiatives that this money enabled, such as Going Home, our prison-to-community reentry initiative; Huiana, our island-wide high school student internship program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen Hawaii County's work places through our business center and business services representatives.

We in Hawaii County are asking the State legislature to appropriate another \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable us to continue initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor force pool expansion, capacity building, and providing support to 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 our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offenders on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve the homeless.

Supporting Hawaii County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass HB 2964.

Paula Thomas  
Project Manager, Huiana Internship Program  
Contracted through HIEDB