

Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

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KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro
Chair, Committee on Finance
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2876, SD1

I submit this testimony in support of SB 2876, SD1, which is similar to the bill previously passed by this Committee, HB 2964, HD1.

In 2006, this Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000 (Act 190) for the four counties Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Of that amount, \$1,900,000 came to Hawai'i County. We believe that we have allotted the money to projects that the Legislature would be pleased with, including Going Home (our prison-to-community re-entry initiative); Huiana, an island-wide high school student internship program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen our work places through business center and business service representatives.

We are asking that this Legislature appropriate another \$2,000,000 from these federal funds, so that our initiatives can continue and new ideas can be developed by the WIB partners, such as expansion of our new disabilities consortium.

Attached are more complete descriptions of the use of the previous allocation (first attachment) and our proposal for the use of new funds (second attachment).

When the House Labor Committee heard HB 2964, HD1, it amended the bill to provide that monies appropriated by the Act would not lapse until June 30, 2010, and this Committee retained that provision. That amendment was made at our request, but we are aware that questions were raised as to whether such a lapse date would be legally acceptable. We believe that the Deputy Attorney General testified in Labor Committee that a 2010 lapse date was okay, and if the Attorney General's Office verifies that with your Committee, we hope that you will amend SB 2876, SD1, in a similar way. If an opinion cannot be obtained, however, then we would rather not risk losing the bill to a veto and would suggest leaving the lapse date at 2009.

We further would recommend that paragraph 1A be deleted, unless Oahu has come forward to request funds. It is our understanding that they have chosen not to do so.

March 24, 2008
Page 2
The Honorable Marcus Oshiro

We would ask that \$2 million be inserted as the allocation to the Hawai'i Workforce Investment Board.

Finally, we would ask that the following language be inserted:

"The Hawaii county workforce investment board may use a portion of the sum allocated to compensate the department of labor and industrial relations for administrative expenses to include, but not be limited to, the cost of providing oversight, monitoring, and reporting. The compensation for the administrative expenses by the department of labor and industrial relations shall be negotiated between the department of labor and industrial relations and the Hawaii county workforce investment board."

The assistance you are giving us is much appreciated, and we will do our best to use the funds effectively for the benefit of the community.

Aloha,



Harry Kim
MAYOR

Attachment

Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB)

Reed Act Program Accomplishments 2006 - 2007

Contact: Susan Akiyama, 808/961-8379

Resource and Program Information:

Source: Reed Act Funds (Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund)
distributed by Act 190/Act 123

Total State Allocation: \$10,000,000.00

Amt allocated to HCWIB: \$1,900,554.00

Amt expended as of 12/31/07: \$778,986.40

Program start date: February 1, 2007

Completion date: September 30, 2008

Accomplishments by category:

Employer Outreach and Services

- Development of a Business Service Center within the local One-Stop Center is currently in progress
- Established links with employer advisory groups to include Chambers, Associations and HCWIB
- Business Service Reps coordinated industry studies to assess and prioritize business needs
- Facilitated /conducted **5 workshops for employers** providing information re: services for the ex-incarcerated, persons with disabilities and other program services available through the One-Stop
- Coordinated **2 job fairs serving over 400 job seekers and 40 employers**

Labor Force Pool Expansion

- Established first-ever island wide high school student "Huiana" internship program
- **70+ high school students** participated in internship program (Huiana)
- **50 employers** participated in internship program (Huiana)
- Established "Going Home", a comprehensive prison-to-community reentry initiative for Hawaii County
- Held **5 employer forums** to promote ex-offenders and persons with disabilities
- Serving over **50 ex-offenders** and working with over **15 community agencies**
- Conducted **10 job readiness and life skills workshops** for furlongees
- Formed a Co-Case Management Team made up of **7 agencies to support ex-offender population**
- Created "Workforce Solutions" consortium to collectively promote persons with disabilities
- Conducted disability forums, consumer fairs, training workshops for disabilities population

Capacity Building

- Provided intensive training for Board members and One-Stop staff
- Enabled Board members and One-Stop staff to attend 3 national conferences
- Coordinated meetings to bridge partnering among workforce development, economic development and educational entities

Building Infrastructure (Technology and Equipment)

- Upgraded video conferencing equipment
- Provided wireless laptops to enhance service delivery in rural areas
- Currently providing transportation services for high school students to get to internship job sites

Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB)

Programs for Legislative Session 2007-2008

Contact: Susan Akiyama, 808/961-8379

Request: \$2,000,000.00 – Reed Act Programs

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 program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen Hawaii County's work places through our business center and business services representatives.

We are asking the State legislature to appropriate another \$2,000,000 from these federal funds, so that these initiatives can continue, 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.

Operation Mainstream

Strategy: To proactively outreach, educate and prepare under-utilized target groups (seniors, youth, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities, expatriates, rural job seekers, welfare recipients, homeless, etc.) in an effort to "mainstream" these individuals into our workforce.

- Complement State's S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives related to curriculum, articulation, and internship opportunities
- Promote the transition and self-sufficiency of students with disabilities at high schools island wide
- Offer employment preparation services to homeless population
- Provide employment, English-as-Second-Language, and acculturation assistance to increasing Micronesian population
- Establish an employment preparation network for incarcerated
- Develop work-based experience with the private sector to support the re-entry and transitioning of ex-offenders.

Employer Outreach

- Establish an economic and workforce development task force to: link key tax incentives to workforce benefits; bridge gap between information and services; convene regular meetings with key stakeholders: Hawaii County Research & Development, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Dept. of Business & Economic Development, Business & Tourism, Workforce Development Division, etc.
- Expand our business resource center services to include support to Kānoelehua Industrial Area Association (KIAA). Services: recruitment, assessment, labor market information, employer education, etc.

Item Building

- Develop a permanent infrastructure for the Huiana student internship program and the Going Home ex-offender re-integration program.
- Disseminate materials and information for replication of the Huiana and Going Home programs in other interested counties.
- Provide transportation for youth to participate in the Huiana student internship program
- Build capacity by supporting board and staff attendance at local, state and national conferences and workshops.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Edwin S. Taira
Housing
Administrator

County of Hawaii
**OFFICE OF HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2484
V/TT (808) 961-8379 • FAX (808) 961-8685

March 25, 2008

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the Finance Committee

Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2876, HD 1, Relating to Employment Security
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) supports Senate House Bill 2876, HD 1.

The OHCD is the grant recipient and administrator of the Workforce Investment Act 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 to improve employer outreach and services, labor pool expansion, capacity building and to fund some shared costs for the operation of the one-stop career centers within each county. The Hawai'i County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB) has been very successful in the delivery of those initiatives: 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 so that our initiatives can continue and new ideas can be developed by the HCWIB partners.

Attached are more complete descriptions of the use of the previous allocation and our proposal for the use of new funds.

0101tska



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
"HAWAII COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER"

March 25, 2008

Page 2

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro

When the House Labor Committee heard HB 2964, HD1, it amended the bill to provide that monies appropriated by the Act would not lapse until June 30, 2010, and this Committee retained that provision. That amendment was made at our request, but we are aware that questions were raised as to whether such a lapse date would be legally acceptable. We believe that the Deputy Attorney General testified in Labor Committee that a 2010 lapse date was okay, and if the Attorney General's Office verifies that with your Committee, we hope that you will amend SB 2876, HD1, in a similar way. If an opinion cannot be obtained, however, then we would rather not risk losing the bill to a veto and would suggest leaving the lapse date at 2009.


We further would like to suggest that paragraph 1A be deleted, unless Oahu has come forward to request funds. It is our understanding that they have chosen not to do so.

Finally, we would ask that the following language be inserted to enable us to pay the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the cost administering funds:

"The Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board may use a portion of the sum allocated to compensate the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for administrative expenses to include, but not be limited to, the cost of providing oversight, monitoring, and reporting. The compensation for the administrative expenses by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations shall be negotiated between the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board."

As these programs help support the County's workforce initiatives, the OHCD respectfully requests your consideration and support of SB 2876, HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


Edwin S. Taira
Housing Administrator

Attachments

Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB)

Reed Act Program Accomplishments 2006 – 2007

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- Conducted **10 job readiness and life skills workshops** for furloughees
- Formed a Co-Case Management Team made up of **7 agencies to support ex-offender population**
- Created “Workforce Solutions” consortium to collectively promote persons with disabilities
- Conducted disability forums, consumer fairs, training workshops for disabilities population

Capacity Building

- Provided intensive training for Board members and One-Stop staff
- Enabled Board members and One-Stop staff to attend 3 national conferences
- Coordinated meetings to bridge partnering among workforce development, economic development and educational entities

Building Infrastructure (Technology and Equipment)

- Upgraded video conferencing equipment
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Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board (HCWIB)

Programs for Legislative Session 2007-2008

Contact: Susan Akiyama, 808/961-8379

Request: \$2,000,000.00 – Reed Act Programs

In 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000 statewide (Act 190, 2006) for the Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) in four counties.. 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 program; and an initiative to directly serve and strengthen Hawaii County's workplaces through our business center and business services representatives.

We are asking the State Legislature to appropriate \$2,000,000 from these federal funds, so that these initiatives can continue to provide 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 on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve the homeless.

Operation Mainstream

Strategy: To proactively outreach, educate and prepare under-utilized target groups (seniors, youth, ex-offenders, persons with disabilities, expatriates, rural job seekers, welfare recipients, homeless, etc.) in an effort to "mainstream" these individuals into our workforce.

- Complement State's S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives related to curriculum, articulation, and internship opportunities
- Promote the transition and self-sufficiency of students with disabilities at high schools island wide
- Offer employment preparation services to homeless population
- Provide employment, English-as-Second-Language, and acculturation assistance to increasing Micronesian population
- Establish an employment preparation network for incarcerated
- Develop work-based experience with the private sector to support the re-entry and transitioning of ex-offenders.

Employer Outreach

- Establish an economic and workforce development task force to: link key tax incentives to workforce benefits; bridge gap between information and services; convene regular meetings with key stakeholders: Hawaii County Research & Development, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Dept. of Business & Economic Development, Business & Tourism, Workforce Development Division, etc.
- Expand our business resource center services to include support to Kanoelehua Industrial Area Association (KIAA). Services: recruitment, assessment, labor market information, employer education, etc.

System Building

- Develop a permanent infrastructure for the Huiana student internship program and the Going Home ex-offender re-integration program.
- Disseminate materials and information for replication of the Huiana and Going Home programs in other interested counties.
- Provide transportation for youth to participate in the Huiana student internship program
- Build capacity by supporting board and staff attendance at local, state and national conferences and workshops.

Governor
Linda Lingle



SUPERINTENDENT
Patricia Hamamoto

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAII
PAHOA HIGH & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
15-3038 PUNA ROAD
PAHOA, HI 96778

March 25, 2008

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
Support of SB2876, HDI Relating to Employment Security
Hearing: Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee members:

My name is Julie Ann Beck and I am the Transition Center Coordinator/Career Counselor for Pahoia High & Intermediate School. As our schools' site coordinator for the Huiana Internship, I ask for your support of SB2876, HDI, 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 re-entry 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. Most of our students are unable to participate in the Huiana Internship Program because of the lack of transportation to and from their placements with the employers because most of the employers are located in Hilo; which is over 20 miles away from our school. By supporting SB2876, HDI and appropriating another \$2,000,000 from these federal funds, you will be helping to provide transportation and other necessities to enable our students to participate in this valuable internship program.

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

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Beck,
Transition Center Coordinator/Career Counselor
Pahoa High & Intermediate School

March 24, 2008

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance
Support of SB2876, HD1 Relating to Employment Security

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee members:

My name is Sara Narimatsu and I am the Interim Director of the Office of Continuing Education and Training at Hawaii Community College. I serve as a member of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board and the WIB Youth Council. I also serve on the Mayor's Taskforce on Employment Solutions which focuses on addressing the needs of our island's workforce and on other workforce development committees as delineated below.

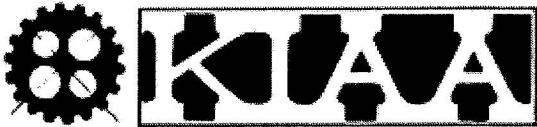
I ask for your support of SB2876, HD1 as it pertains to Hawaii County. In 2006, the Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$10,000,000 statewide (Act 190, 2006) for the four county Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). Of that sum, \$1,900,000 came to Hawaii County. The Department of Labor and all involved 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 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 SB2876, HD1.



Sara Narimatsu
Hawaii Community College
Office on Continuing Education and Training
974-7531; saran@hawaii.edu



Kanoelehua Industrial Area Assn., Inc.

820 Piilani Street, Suite 201

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone (808) 961-5422 • Fax (808) 935-9740

March 25, 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Committee on Finance

Support of SB2876 Relating to Employment Security

Hearing: March 26, 2008 at 2 p.m. Conference Room #308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee members:

I am Allan Onishi, President 07-08, of the Kanoelehua Industrial Area Association (KIAA). KIAA is a non-profit business organization in the Hilo industrial area representing over 350 business firms.

I ask for your support of SB 2876, which has been referred to your committee, 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 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 SB 2876.

Allan Onishi, President 07-08
KIAA

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2876

March 24, 2008

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Finance Committee
Support of SB 2876 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing: March 26, 2008 at 2:00 PM

Dear Representative Oshiro and Committee members:

I'm Donna Madrid. I'm the Director of the Rural Development Program at Hawaii Community College in Hilo. Our program has been very active with workforce development and job creation projects on the Big Island since 1998, particularly using Federal funds.

Our program has worked very closely with our local WIB and its many affiliated organizations throughout these years. In looking at what the Federal Department of Labor is currently encouraging in terms of local collaboration among all involved with workforce issues, I think what we have been able to forge together on the Big Island is very good and may be of serious interest as a national model.

I support SB2876. It will significantly help us to build on what has already been achieved. Going Home will help transition our former prisoners back into our community with job-ready skills. Huiana internship program is developing a win-win situation among local employers, students, parents, schools, and involved organizations. The Big Island's WDD and the Mayor (and his administration) have been outstanding in their energetic and creative ways of building our workforce and could do much more with the appropriate resources.

Please provide support; specifically for the \$2,000,000 in this bill, and generally for the trailblazing pace on the Big Island. Mahalo.

Donna Madrid, Director
Rural Development Program
Hawaii Community College
200 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720
Office: 974-7531



HILO COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
450 Waiuanue Ave., Room C-3
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: 974-4100 Fax: 974-6170 Night: 974-4101



March 24, 2008

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Finance Committee
Support of SB 2876 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing: March 26, 2008 at 2 PM

Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee members:

My name is Leonard Paik and I am principal of the Hilo Community School for Adults and the chairperson for the East Hawaii partners of the Big Island Workplace Connection, Hawaii County's WIB One Stop Center.

I ask for your support of SB 2876 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 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 SB 2876.

Leonard Paik
Hilo Community School for Adults, and
Big Island Workplace Connection.

Hawai'i Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana
1990 Kinoole Street, Suite 102 • Hilo, HI 96720

March 24, 2008

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Support of SB2876, HD1 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing: March 26, 2008 at 2:00pm


Dear Chair Oshiro and Committee members:

I serve as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana, a non-profit established in Hawai'i County by the Workforce Investment Board(WIB). Our mission parallels that of the WIB, and we are integrally involved with efforts to develop a comprehensive workforce development system for the County.

I ask for your support of SB2876, HD1 as it pertains to Hawai'i County. In 2006, the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i County. The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i County's work places through our business center and business services representatives.

We in Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB2876, HD1.


Sandra Sakaguchi
HIWEDO
(808) 640-7967
email: s.sakaguchi@yahoo.com

FINTestimony

From: Irene A. Nagao [irene.nagao@hawaiiintel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 8:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: SB 2876, HD1, (HSCR 1235-08) March 26, 2:00 pm -Finance Committee Hearing
Importance: High

Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance:

Re: SB 2876, HD1 (HSCR 1235-08)

My name is Irene Nagao and I have been a long time member of the Hawaii Island Workforce Investment Board, County of Hawaii.

You will be hearing bill SB 2876 on Wednesday, March 26 at 2:00 pm.

I urge you to support SB 2876 that will appropriate funds for fiscal year 2007-08 in Reed Act funds. Our HCWIB has worked very hard these past years to use the Reed Act funds to enhance the programs that has helped many of our Big Island participants. The Reed Act funds has given our board opportunities to use innovative ways to do our work for the community.

We can continue this work with the support of the Reed Act funds, and thereby ask that the Finance Committee pass SB2876.

Thank you ,

Aloha & have a good day!
Irene A. Nagao
33 Palani Street
Hilo, Hi 96720

Tel: 808-934-0342
Cell: 808-987-8262
irene.nagao@hawaiiintel.net

Testimony
By Ted Sakai
Senate Bill 2876, HD1, Relating to Employment Security
House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I support the passage of Senate Bill 2876, HD 1, Relating to Employment Security. This bill appropriates funds to the various county workforce investment boards to improve employer outreach and services, labor pool expansion, capacity building and operation of one stop career centers within each county.

My testimony is focused on the activity of the Workforce Investment Board in the County of Hawaii. After retiring from a career with the Department of Public Safety, I have been privileged to be involved with a dynamic consortium of public agencies, private agencies, and individual citizens called the Going Home Committee. Going Home seeks to insure that needed services are available to the criminal offender who is in the community after finishing a term of incarceration. This helps the community, as the offender becomes a productive, law-abiding citizen; the correctional system, as it can relieve prison overcrowding in the long run; and the individual offenders and their families.

Among other things, the County of Hawaii WIB has supported the efforts of the Going Home Committee. Because of this support, Going Home partners have been able to help offenders in the community find employment. Gainful employment is among the most critical services needed by offenders making the transition from secure incarceration to life in the free world. Without gainful employment, the offender is not likely to succeed in the community. With the support of the County of Hawaii WIB, the Going Home partners have developed some truly innovative and effective programs to help offenders prepare for, secure, and retain meaningful jobs. SB 2876, HD 1 will enable the County and Going Home to continue its current efforts and perhaps develop even more creative approaches to help the criminal offender.

SB2876, HD 1 would enable the County to continue to support a much needed program that provides a sound re-entry program for offenders, promotes the public safety, and enables people to maintain their dignity.

Thank you.

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