

From: Mayor's Office
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2876

On behalf of Mayor Harry Kim, I submit this testimony in support of SB 2876.

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 Hawaii 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 reentry 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).

Any assistance you can give us will be appreciated and, we believe, the funds will be effectively used for the benefit of the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Levin

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.

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.

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 HWCIB
- 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 "Huiiana" internship program
- **70+ high school students** participated in internship program (Huiiana)
- **50 employers** participated in internship program (Huiiana)
- 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 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
- Provided wireless laptops to enhance service delivery in rural areas
- Currently providing transportation services for high school students to get to internship job sites

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

Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Support of SB 2876 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing: February 5, 2008 at 9AM

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee members:

I serve as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana, a non-profit established in Hawaii 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 SB 2876 as it pertains to Hawaii County. In 2005, 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



Sandra Sakaguchi

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