

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



GREGG YAMANAKA
CHAIR

ANN YAMAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 417
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor/wdc
Phone: (808) 586-8670 / Fax: (808) 586-8674
Email: dilir.wdc@hawaii.gov

LATE TESTIMONY

February 5, 2008

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Gregg Yamanaka, Chair
Workforce Development Council

Subject: SB2876 Relating to Employment Security
Appropriates Reed Act funds for Workforce Development Programs
Hearing Tuesday, February 5, 2008; 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room 016

The Workforce Development Council ("WDC") **supports the intent** of SB2876, which provides the county Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs") and WDC with Reed Act funds from the Unemployment Trust Fund. Background information on similar bills in the last two legislative sessions is provided as an Attachment to this testimony.

Severe cuts in federal funding has hampered ongoing operations of the state's workforce system, such that an infusion of Reed Act funds in 2006 has permitted the WIBs and WDC to initiate activities that will benefit both Hawaii's employers and employees. An additional infusion of funds will permit that work to continue, as well as efforts towards sustainability after the allocation of Reed Act funds are depleted.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

The Hawaii Workforce Development Council is a private-sector led body responsible for advising the governor on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for all. The council is also the State Workforce Investment Board for purposes of the Workforce Investment Act ("WIA") of 1998. It assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year strategic workforce investment plans and oversees workforce (public) investment activities in the state.

Background
Act 190, SLH 2006 and Act 123, SLH 2007
Reed Act Funds to Workforce Investment Boards

The “Reed Act” is a provision of the Social Security Act. It provides for the distribution of federal unemployment tax funds to state unemployment insurance and employment service programs in the event the federal government collects excess unemployment tax revenues. As the federal government approached a balanced budget in the late-1990s, Reed Act distributions were made to the states, including a \$30.8 million distribution to Hawaii in March 2002.

In order to use any portion of the Reed Act distributions, the Legislature had to (1) amend Section 393-13, Hawaii Revised States to conform state law to federal requirements and (2) appropriate funds. In the 2006 Legislative session, a bill was passed and signed into law as Act 190 that made the requisite changes and appropriated the following amounts of Reed Act funds to the county Workforce Investment Boards (“WIBs”) and the Workforce Development Council (“WDC”).*

\$5,070,557	Oahu WIB
\$1,528,331	Maui WIB
\$1,275,556	Kauai WIB
\$1,925,556	Hawaii WIB
<u>\$200,000</u>	WDC
\$10,000,000	TOTAL

Federal law restricts the use of Reed Act funds to payment of (1) unemployment compensation, (2) the administration of the state’s unemployment compensation law, and (3) the administration of the state’s system of public employment offices. With respect to the use of Reed Act funds by “the state’s system of public employment offices”, Reed Act funds may be used in the same manner that Wagner-Peyser Act funds are used to support Hawaii’s One-Stop Job Centers. Examples of activities allowable under the Wagner-Peyser Act include:

- Staff for delivery of appropriate core and intensive service employment services;
- Equipment and resources for resource rooms;
- Payment of rent, utilities, and maintenance of facilities, including common spaces such as resource rooms, reception areas, conference areas, etc. in accordance with cost sharing guidelines;
- Shared costs of operation of local one-stops including payment for one-stop operators in accordance with cost sharing guidelines;
- Development of products that support service delivery such as labor market information products and job bank technology;

* HB2947 HD2 SD2 CD1 was signed into law as Act 190, SLH 2006.

- Compute equipment, network equipment, telecommunications equipment, application development, and other technology resources, including assisted technology, that support employment and workforce information service delivery;
- Outreach and educational materials targeted at users of one-stop employment and workforce information services;
- Training, technical assistance, and professional development of staff who deliver employment and workforce information services.

Act 190, SLH 2006 became effective on July 1, 2006. Appropriated funds must be legally obligated before June 30, 2007, and obligated expenditures must be made before June 30, 2008.

In the 2007 Legislative session, the WIBs and WDC supported a bill that extended the period provided for use of the \$10 million from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009, and language related to WDC's use of its \$200,000 was corrected. The bill passed as Act 123, SLH 2007 and became effective on June 29, 2007.**

** HB751 HD1 SD2 CD1 was signed into law as Act 123, SLH 2007.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2007/bills/HB751_cd1_.htm

LATE

Harry Kim
Mayor



Edwin S. Taira
Housing Administrator

County of Hawaii
OFFICE OF HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

50 Waiiuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2456
V/T/T (808) 961-8379 • FAX (808) 961-8685

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2876 Relating to Employment Security
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) supports Senate Bill 2876.

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.

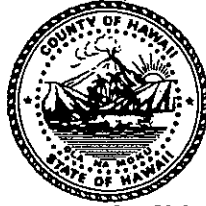
We are asking the State Legislature to appropriate \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable us to continue to support a growing network of WIB partners whose priorities include: expansion of a new disabilities consortium and its increased services to persons with disabilities, particularly our 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 SB 2876.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


Edwin S. Taira
Housing Administrator

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE TESTIMONY

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

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:

As Chair of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board, I ask for your support of SB2876 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 exoffender; 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.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony before you.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McGuffie
Chair, Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board

LATE TESTIMONY

Irene A. Nagao
33 Palani Street
Hilo, Hi 96720

Tel: (808) 987-8262

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: SB 2876
Hawaii County request for Reed Act Funding for 2009

My name is Irene A. Nagao and I am a long time member of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board. The Reed Act funding of 2007-08 has been instrumental in the development of various innovative programs for our County.

Our County has many needs for the adult and youth population and the Reed Act has provided the means to serve this underserved population.

We hope to continue expanding our programs to meet the everlasting needs of our growing population. This will take adequate funding to be creative and innovative. Therefore I am in support of the Reed Act Funding for 2009 so that our board can effectively continue to work on the workforce needs of Hawaii County.

I humbly ask for your support in the approval for our Hawaii County 2009 Reed Act funding.

Thank you and Aloha,

Irene A. Nagao
Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board
Membership Chair

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

LATE TESTIMONY

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:

Aloha! I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2876, 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 SB 2876 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 SB2876 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 SB2876.

Paula Thomas
Project Manager, Huiana Internship Program
Contracted through HIEDB

LATE

Senator Brian T. Tanaguchi
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support of SB 2876 Relating to Employment Security

Dear Senator Tanaguchi:

My name is Julie Ann Beck and I am the Transition Center Coordinator/Career Counselor for Pahoa High & Intermediate School. I am also the Huiana Internship site coordinator for our school. If it were not for the partnership with the HI County Workforce Development Office, we would not have been able to launch this island-wide Huiana Internship Program for our high school students. The Huiana Internship is very well organized and currently has over 70 participating employers, with additional employers currently being recruited. Pahoa High School now has eight students serving internships with employers in East Hawaii and earning high school elective credits. Eight students probably don't seem significant to you now, but just imagine how we can grow the program if we had the funding to make it happen. One of the major problems that we face as a rural school is transportation to get our students to and from their internship sites. Continued funding can enable us to address the transportation issues and allow for increased participation from all students and employers who choose to take advantage of this valuable program.

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.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Beck
Pahoa High & Intermediate School
15-3038 Pahoa Village Road
Pahoa, HI 96778
(808) 965-2150 ext. 233

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:

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 SB2876 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.

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

LATE TESTIMONY

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:

As Complex Area Superintendent of the Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex Area in the Department of Education, our schools have been active partners with the Hawaii County Workforce Development Division supporting successful initiatives and other educational programs to prepare our youth for the workforce.

We ask for your support of SB2876 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.

Sincerely,

Valerie Takata
Complex Area Superintendent
Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex Area
P. O. Box 4160
Department of Education
450 Waiianuenue Ave.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Ph. 974-6600

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 am a consultant representing Complex Area Superintendent Valerie Takata and the Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex Area in the Department of Education. We have been active partners with the Hawaii County Workforce Development Division supporting successful initiatives and other educational programs to prepare our youth for the workforce.

We ask for your support of SB2876 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.

Sincerely,

Roy Kobayashi
Consultant
Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea Complex Area,
Hawaii District Office, Hilo Annex
Department of Education
450 Waianuenue Ave.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Ph. 896-7855