



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 11, 2010

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Labor

Date: Friday, March 12, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

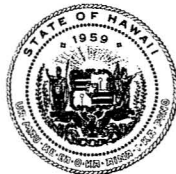
From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Testimony in OPPOSITION

to

S.B. 2549 – Relating to Employment Security

Due to the passage of HB2169 now Act 2, UI trust fund / Reed Act funds are projected to be exhausted as UI benefit payouts by summer 2010. These funds must be exhausted for the State of Hawaii to qualify for Federal UI loans.



**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: dlir.workforce.council@hawaii.gov

March 11, 2010

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: March 12, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309

From: James Hardway, Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

RE: SB 2549 SD1 - Relating to Employment Security

The Workforce Development Council (“WDC”) is **not in support of any further draw-down of the Unemployment Trust Fund (“UI Trust Fund”)** due to the current economic and unemployment situation. Given the uncertainty of what effect the drawdown would have on the UI Trust Fund and subsequent employer taxes, the WDC cannot support the appropriation of further Reed Act funds from the UI Trust

However, the WDC supports the intent of S.B. 2549 SD1, and any effort, which would provide additional funding to the four county local workforce investment boards. Additional funding for programs that assist jobseekers and employers strengthen Hawaii’s overall workforce development system. The public can view the current progress of county programs currently funded by previously appropriated Reed Act funds on the WDC website at:

<http://hawaii.gov/labor/wdc/wdc-links/local-area-workforce-investment-boards-lwibs>

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

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 75-5722 Hanama Place, Suite 102 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 327-3602 • Fax (808) 326-5663

March 12, 2010

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Labor
And Public Employment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96800

Re: SB 2549 SD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Aloha, Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2549 SD1 Relating to Employment Security, which appropriates Reed Act monies to Hawai'i County's Workforce Investment Board.

The County of Hawai'i Workforce Investment Board has supported the efforts of the unique and successful Going Home consortium, a prison-to-community reentry initiative; and has supported the Huian Internship program, a work-based learning experience that places students in meaningful and substantive internship experiences. This program also strengthens our work places through the business center and business service representatives.

We are asking the State Legislature to 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. The board priorities include supporting the following initiatives:

- The Hawai'i Health Care Alliance (HIHA) – This partnership is designed to recruit and retain health care professionals to address the critical shortage of health care professionals on Hawai'i Island.
- Business Incubator (Micro Biz Initiative) – Under this initiative, the newly established Business Resource Centers will provide technical support to selected startup businesses in partnership with the Small Business Development Center and major business organizations.

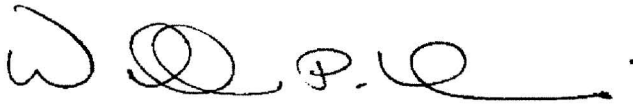
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairperson
Page 2
March 12, 2010

- Economic and Workforce Development Connections – This effort would create a formalized entity to support and advance emerging initiatives in areas such as health, energy conservation, “green industry” and astronomy.
- Career Connections for Youth – This will offer an “education-to-careers” pathway for youth from 16 to 24 years old to include internships and mentoring initiatives, and would also establish a Youth Business and Innovation Center to advocate for entrepreneurship.

In summary, I strongly support SB 2549 HD 1. This appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits for our community through workforce initiatives, and I urge the committee to approve this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii staff on the Big Island of Hawaii has been active with the Going Home initiative. We have seen the difference this consortium has made in the lives of people transitioning back into the community and the resulting recidivism rate reductions that occur when a network of supports is engaged.

As such, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. ("Goodwill") submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2549. We ask for your support for SB 2549 as it pertains to Hawaii County. This bill would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island related to employment security, including the unique and successful Going Home consortium. The significance of Going Home is that without effective supports in the community, offenders are highly likely to commit new crimes. This creates new victims, strains an already overburdened criminal justice system, and hurts family and loved ones.

The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are justly proud of the initiatives that this Reed Act funding enabled in the past, such as Going Home, Huiana, our island-wide high school student internship program; and initiatives to directly serve and strengthen Hawaii County's work places through our business center and business services representatives.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii is asking the State legislature to appropriate another \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable us to develop initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor 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; expansion of our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offenders on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve our local workforce and economic development needs.

Supporting Hawaii County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, we urge the committee to pass SB 2549.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



230 KEKUANAOA AVENUE . HILO, HI 96720
(808) 935-3899 PHONE . (808) 935-3884 FAX
INFO@HIWEDO.ORG

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

My name is Jessica P.K Yamamoto and 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 am writing in support of SB2549, which appropriates Reed Act monies to the four county Workforce Investment Boards. I ask for your support to SB2549 as it pertains 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:

- The Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance (HIHA) which is working to recruit and retain health care professionals to address a critical shortage on the Big Island.
- The Going Home, Huiana, Workforce Solutions and Veterans programs among others will support the local workforce through mentoring opportunities.
- The Going Home system that provides a full range of supportive programs, occupational skills training and certification programs to prepare incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals for successful re-entry into the community and the workforce.
- The business-to-business support the Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana supports to encourage S.T.E.M. and Green practices.
- The newly established Business Resource Centers that support startup businesses in tandem with the Small Business Development Center as part of a micro-business incubator program.
- The development of an entity that will incorporate emerging initiatives in an Economic & Workforce Development Connections program to support workforce initiatives.
- The Career Connections for Youth program that provides an "education to careers" pathway for all youth 16-24 by facilitating internship and mentoring opportunities and a Youth Business and Innovation Center.

Supporting Hawaii County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits for our communities. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Mahalo,

Jessica Yamamoto, Executive Director
Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana, Inc.

GOING HOME

Hawai'i County's ex-offender re-integration program

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I work with the Going Home Consortium, a community-based collaboration that assists Hawaii Island men and women released from correctional institutions with reintegration into community life through employment, training and appropriate supportive services. The significance of Going Home is that without effective supports in the community, offenders are highly likely to commit new crimes. This creates new victims, strains an already overburdened criminal justice system, and hurts family and loved ones.

I ask for your support for SB 2549, SD1 as it pertains to Hawaii County. This bill would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island related to employment security, including the unique and successful Going Home consortium.

The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are justly proud of the initiatives that this Reed Act funding enabled in the past, such as Going Home, 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 additional money from these federal funds to enable us to develop initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor 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; expansion of our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offenders on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve our local workforce and economic development needs.

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 2549,SD1.

Sandra Sakaguchi
Going Home Coordinator
230 Kekuanaoa Ave, Box 4, Hilo, HI 96720
Telephone: (808) 640-7967
Email: s.sakaguchi@yahoo.com

**ALU LIKE, Inc.**

E alu like mai kākou, e nā 'ōiwi o Hawai'i
Let Us Work Together, Natives of Hawai'i

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

My name is Carla Kurokawa, I am a member of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and I also sit on the board for HIWEDO.

I ask for your support of SB 2549 as it pertains 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: (SEE REED ACT III ATTACHMENT) 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 2549.

Sincerely,

Carla Kurokawa
ALU LIKE, Inc. – Employment & Training Program
32 Kinoole St. Suite 102
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 961-2625 ph.
(808) 935-6084 fax
cakurok@alulike.org email

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

My name is Irene A. Nagao, a long time member of the Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board and the Hawaii County Youth Council. My passion has always been in education and training, and therefore I have played an active role in the community. I am the Education Chair for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, board member of Junior Achievement, East Hawaii representative on the Hawaii State Adult Education Advisory Board, long time member of the Steering Committee of Youth Builders sponsored by the Hawaii County Comprehensive Strategy for Juvenile Justice. and also a member of the Friends of the Drug Court and the Big Island Task Force for Criminal Justice.

In addition, I am the coordinator of programs for the Business-Education Partnership that helps high school students prepare for the world of work. I also help with the Going Home Program and the Huiana Internship Program.

I am asking for your support for SB 2549 as it pertains to Hawaii County. This bill would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island related to employment security and also includes our Going home consortium. We are very proud of how the Going Home consortium has grown to help the incarcerated return to our community and be productive citizens. This program needs continued support to be effective.

The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are proud of the initiatives that this REED Act funding enabled in the past, with the Going Home, Huiana, our island-wide high school student internship program, and other initiatives 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 develop initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor 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 service to persons with disabilities- particularly our youth; expansion of our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offenders on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve our local workforce and economic development needs.

I urge this committee to pass SB 2549 as this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits to support Hawaii County's workforce initiatives.

Sincerely,

Irene A. Nagao
Business-Education Partnership
Coordinator
P.O. Box 5089, Hilo, Hi 96720
(Tel: 987-8262)

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internships. Huiana has placed over 160 high school students in internships within the last year. 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 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program with the potential to be serve each high school in 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 our local workforce and economic development needs.

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 2549.

Mike Gleason
Board Chair
Hawaii Island Workforce Investment Board

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:


My name is Ruth C. Forbes and I am the Offender Services Supervisor at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center. I am currently involved with the HIWEDO/Going Home Consortium and serve as the Chairperson for the START (Successful Transitions And Re-Entry Together) committee. In addition, I am also a member of other Going Home committees that provide support for incarcerated individuals.

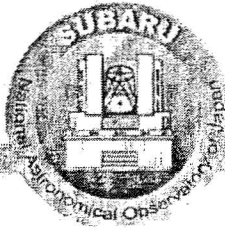
I ask for your support for SB 2549 SD1 as it pertains to Hawaii County. This bill would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island related to employment security, including the unique and successful Going Home consortium. The significance of Going Home is that without effective supports in the community, offenders are highly likely to commit new crimes. This creates new victims, strains an already overburdened criminal justice system, and hurts family and loved ones.

The Department of Labor and all involved with the Hawaii Island WIB efforts are justly proud of the initiatives that this Reed Act funding enabled in the past, such as Going Home, Huiana, our island-wide high school student internship program; and initiatives 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 develop initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor 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; expansion of our Huiana and Going Home initiatives to serve more students and ex-offenders on a state-wide level; and develop support programs to serve our local workforce and economic development needs.

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 2549 SD1.

Ruth C. Forbes, Offender Services Supervisor 
Hawaii Community Correctional Center
60 Punahale Street, Hilo, HI 96720 / Telephone: 981-7282



Subaru Telescope

1600 East Maunaloa Road, Haleakala, HI 96720-2890
Phone: (808) 934-7000 Fax: (808) 934-7000

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internships. Huiana has placed over 160 high school students in internships within the last year. 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 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program with the potential to be serve each high school in 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.

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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 2549.

Sincerely yours,

Kumiko S. Usuda, Ph.D.

Outreach Scientist

Subaru Telescope

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

73-4876 Kanaani Street
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Tel 808-331-4903
Fax 808-329-9459

1257 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Tel 808-932-2013
Fax 808-935-0148



Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internships. Huiana has placed over 160 high school students in internships within the last year. 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 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program with the potential to serve each high school in Hawaii County.

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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 2549.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Iokepa".

Wayne K. Iokepa
Technical Operations Manager
Oceanic Time Warner Cable – Hawai'i County



Waiakea High School Senior Project

155 W. Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone (808)974-4888

Fax (808)974-4880

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. *Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internships. Huiana has placed over 160 high school students in internships within the last year.* 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 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program with the potential to serve each high school in Hawaii County.

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Supporting Hawaii County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social, education, and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB 2549.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette Manelos Bishop".

Nanette Manelos Bishop
Waiakea High School
Senior Project/PTP/Huiana Coordinator



Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and places them in meaningful and substantive internships. Huiana has placed over 160 high school students in internships within the last year. 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 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program with the potential to be serve each high school in Hawaii County.

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Please call me at 966-9325 if you have any questions concerning the above.

Sincerely,

Kimo Lee,
Director of Development
W.H. Shipman, Ltd.

yamashita3-Mark

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 10:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: paula@hiwedo.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2549 on 3/12/2010 10:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for LAB 3/12/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2549

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paula Thomas
Organization: HIWEDO
Address: 230 Kekuanaoa St, Box 4 Hilo, HI
Phone: 808-935-3899
E-mail: paula@hiwedo.org
Submitted on: 3/11/2010

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2549. I am the program coordinator for a workforce related internship program for high school students. It supports career pathway exploration, fulfills requirements for the students' portfolios and some senior project needs, and shows students the workplace skills that are needed to be successful job candidates in the future. It also showcases island-based jobs that we hope will limit the brain drain in Hawaii. Working with a skeletal staff, we have placed over 250 students in internships in the past 3.5 years as a result of Reed Act funding. Over 90 businesses have signed on to mentor students and more are interested with each new internship session. In this economic climate, government support for this collaboration between education and business will go a long way toward supporting student growth, community connections with education, and future workforce needs.

12-Mile Kumiai Association - Kurtistown
PO Box 159
Kurtistown Hawaii 96760

TO: HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 12, 2010

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: SB549 Reed Act - SD1 - LAB Hearing RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Dear House Labor Committee,

I am unable to be present to present testimony, and this is my letter of support.

I am June Shibuya, President of the Kurtistown 12-MILE KUMIAI ASSOCIATION, on the Big Island. This Kumiai was founded in the 1950s by first and second generation multi-ethnic immigrants living in sugar plantation camps, in the community of Kurtistown. I am writing this testimony in behalf of the Kurtistown 12-MILE KUMIAI ASSOCIATION, with a membership of 21 households plus their family members. *Kumiai* is a Japanese word that means "community" where all the folks in the neighborhoods meet, work together, and grow mutual understanding to improve quality of life. The 12-MILE MARKER indicated Kurtistown was 12 miles out of Hilo, which was considered far away, back then.

In behalf of our 12-Mile Kumiai Association, I am writing in strong support of SB2549, which appropriates Reed Act monies to the four county Workforce Investment Boards with direct positive impact for employment potential in our rural communities in Hawaii County. This bill would appropriate funds to improve employer outreach and services, labor pool expansion, capacity building and the operation of one-stop career centers within each county. Passing this bill will improve the quality of life of our citizens and community through workforce employment.

Health Crisis Initiative: Hawaii County has a severe shortage of health professionals and health facilities. It is NOT OK for our community citizens to think that only people with money can get health care because they must go to Honolulu for better health care and services. This is a terrible health disparity in rural community that impacts minority populations. Our kumiai members have stated how difficult it is to receive medical care on this island, and in a timely manner. Many of the members are not going in for basic screening tests because they cannot access services, providers are "not taking new patients," or the services are just not available on the island, and a whole list of other reasons. There have been major conferences regarding health crisis on our island. It is time that our Work Force Development works closer with the Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance (HIHA) and the business community to actively recruit needed health care professional and their services, and find out what incentives keep / retain high quality workers on our islands.

Going Home System for Hawaii County and Hawaii State: Assist Going Home Members and Committees establish a full range of supportive programs, occupational skills training, certification programs to prepare the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated for successful re-entry into the community and the workforce. For the special group of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated citizens who are ready to work because they understand the meaning and value of having occupational skills, they will be contributing member in our society. Going Home System will enhance their skills and add to the needed resources in our county and state.

We also need:

Business-to-Business in Support of S.T.E.M. and Green: Funds to be available to established business organizations for the use business/employee capacity building. A business service representative to coordinate needs of businesses; consult with HIWEDO to issue scholarships, etc. with focus on awareness and infusion of STEM and Green Practices.

Business Incubator (Micro Biz Initiative): This Initiative will support a few startup businesses via technical support from our newly-established Business Resource Centers. Will work in tandem with the Small Business Development Center, HIWEDO and the major business organizations. The Business Resource Centers will serve as the principal site for this incubation.

Economic and Workforce Development Connections: A formalized entity will be formed to incorporate the emerging initiatives in Hawaii County. This includes supporting: health initiatives, energy conservation and “green” industry developments, astronomy, etc.

Career Connections for Youth: An “education to careers” pathway for all youth from 16 to 24 incorporating existing internship and mentoring initiatives at high schools and post-secondary education institutions. It also establishes a Youth Business Innovation Center where entrepreneurship is advocated.)

Our 12-Mile Kumiai Association in Kurtistown strongly supports Hawaii County’s workforce initiatives through appropriation to provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Sincerely,

June Shibuya, President

12-Mile Kumiai Association - Kurtistown

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Support of SB 2549, SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

My name is Pat Q. Public and I am writing in strong support of SB2549, which appropriates Reed Act monies to the four county Workforce Investment Boards. I ask for your support to SB2549 as it pertains to Hawaii County. This bill would appropriate funds to improve employer outreach and services, labor pool expansion, capacity building and the operation of one-stop career centers within each county.

Providing an infusion of Reed Act funding to the Big Island can support the following among other initiatives:

- The Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance (HIHA) which is working to recruit and retain health care professionals to address a critical shortage on the Big Island.
- The Going Home, Huiana, Workforce Solutions and Veterans programs among others will support the local workforce through mentoring opportunities.
- The Going Home system that provides a full range of supportive programs, occupational skills training and certification programs to prepare incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals for successful re-entry into the community and the workforce.
- The business-to-business support the Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana supports to encourage S.T.E.M. and Green practices.
- The newly established Business Resource Centers that support startup businesses in tandem with the Small Business Development Center as part of a micro-business incubator program.
- The development of an entity that will incorporate emerging initiatives in an Economic & Workforce Development Connections program to support workforce initiatives.
- The Career Connections for Youth program that provides an “education to careers” pathway for all youth 16-24 by facilitating internship and mentoring opportunities and a Youth Business and Innovation Center.

Supporting Hawaii County’s workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits for our communities. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pat Q. Public

yamashita3-Mark

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 9:30 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2549 on 3/12/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 3/12/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2549

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ted Sakai
Organization: Individual
Address: 47-571 Ahuimanu Road kaneohe, hawaii 96744
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Submitted on: 3/11/2010

Comments: