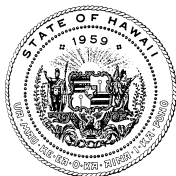


**TESTIMONY**

**SB2549**



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

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

February 8, 2010

To: The Honorable Dwight Takamine, Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Labor

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

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

**Testimony in OPPOSITION**

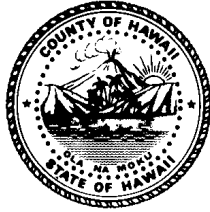
**to**

**S.B. 2549 – Relating to Employment Security**

The Department opposes this bill because it seeks to appropriate Reed Act funds from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a time when the fund is strained by high unemployment benefit payouts. It would not be fiscally prudent to make any additional withdrawals from the UI trust fund at this time as any expenditure from the fund not used to pay benefits would further jeopardize the solvency of the fund.

Reed Act funds were derived from excess FUTA tax collections paid by employers. The Department believes the Reed Act served as a vehicle to indirectly return these excess funds to employers. Because the UI trust fund is funded solely by employers, the Department believes these Reed Act funds should be used to bolster the UI trust fund balance and pay UI benefits as any monies removed from the fund will have to be paid back by employers.

**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

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Labor  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96800

Re: SB 2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Aloha, Chair Takamine and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2549 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 Dwight Takamine, Chairperson

Page 2

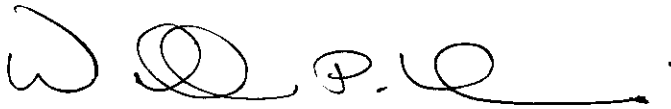
February 9, 2010

- 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. 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



County of Hawai'i  
Department of Human Resources

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 2 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8361 • Fax (808) 961-8617  
Jobs Information: Job Hotline (808) 961-8618 e-mail: [jobs@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:jobs@co.hawaii.hi.us)

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Takamine and Committee Members:

RE: Support of Senate Bill 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

I am Ronald K. Takahashi, Director of Human Resources, County of Hawai'i, writing in support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several workforce program initiatives on Hawai'i Island, including the Huiana internship program for youth.

We humbly ask you to appropriate another \$2,000,000 from federal funds to enable Hawai'i County to continue its workforce initiatives related to improving employer outreach and services, labor force pool expansion, capacity building, and support to a growing network of Workforce Investment Board (WIB) partners.

The County of Hawai'i has actively participated in the Huiana program by having many of our departments serve as worksites providing students with work-readiness and job training skills to increase their awareness in various career pathways. Funding through SB 2549 will be critical for the continued growth and expansion of this program in Hawai'i County in providing our youth with much needed career guidance and direction.

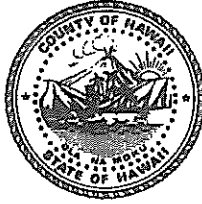
Supporting Hawai'i County's workforce initiatives through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits to the residents of our island. Therefore, I humbly ask you to pass SB 2549.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Takahashi".

Ronald K. Takahashi  
Director of Human Resources

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Michael Gleason  
Chairman

Wayne Higaki  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman

Kimo Lee  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8, 2010

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Labor

Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**  
**HEARING DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010**  
**TIME: 3:00pm**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM: 224**

As chair of the Workforce Investment Board I submit this testimony in support of HB 2549. The Workforce Investment Board is interested in projects to develop our Hawai'i County Workforce and better prepare unemployed and underemployed workers for future jobs. The workforce development system, led by business, supports workforce and economic development.

We are asking that this Legislature appropriate \$2,000,000 from federal Reed Act funds for Hawai'i County initiatives. Previously developed initiatives will continue and new ideas can be developed by the WIB partners. Initiatives responsive to the Hawai'i Health Care Crisis to recruit and retain health care providers, business incubator to support entrepreneurial development, S.T.E.M. and Green initiatives to leverage ARRA funding are developed.

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

  
Michael Gleason, Chair





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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
 SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR  
 SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR  
 DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
 TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
 PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

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.



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

February 8, 2010

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Chair Takamine and Committee members:

My name is **Lezlie Padaken** I am the **Bookkeeper for Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana, Inc.** I have worked with this agency since October 2009 and am fascinated by the work done by such a small group of individuals. Their commitment to the mission of the agency and the service they provide to the community is such that the efforts seem larger than that of a (7) employee staffed agency. I would urge you to support their efforts and help to ensure that they will be able to continue to service their community and community partnerships.

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 Hulana 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.

Lezlie Padaken  
Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic  
Development Ohana, Inc  
HIWEDO  
230 Kekuanaoa Avenue, Box#4  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808)935-3899  
Fax: (808)935-3884



SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR  
SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB549RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support of SB2549** as a representative of the **Kanoelehua Industrial Area Association** which appropriates Reed Act monies to the four county Workforce Investment Boards. I ask for your support to HB2549 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.

- A. Health Crisis Initiative: Hawaii County is currently in the throes of a health crisis an acute shortage of health professionals and health facilities. WDD will work closely with the Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance (HIHA) and the business community to recruit and retain health care professionals throughout the Big Island.
- B. Mentoring: Support the local workforce by establishing a universal workforce mentoring model to be replicated by individual community-driven workforce initiatives: Going Home, Huiana, Workforce Solutions, Veterans, welfare-to-work, etc.
- C. Going Home System for Hawaii County and Hawaii State: Assist GH 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.
- D. 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 rep to coordinate needs of businesses; consult with HIWEDO to issue scholarships, etc. with focus on awareness and infusion of STEM and Green Practices.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.)

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Nimr Y. Tamimi, KIAA**  
**President 09-10**



ALU LIKE, Inc.

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

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Chair Takamine 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](mailto:cakurok@alulike.org) email

**REED ACT III**  
Outline of Initiatives

Delivering Entities:

Hawaii Island Workforce & Economic Development Ohana (HIWEDO)  
Workforce Development Division  
Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development &  
Hawaii County Workforce Investment Board (oversight entities)

Estimated Request: \$2,000,000

**NEW OR EXPANDED PROJECTS**

- A. Health Crisis Initiative: Hawaii County is currently in the throes of a health crisis an acute shortage of health professionals and health facilities. WDD will work closely with the Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance (HIHA) and the business community to recruit and retain health care professionals throughout the Big Island.
- B. Mentoring: Support the local workforce by establishing a universal workforce mentoring model to be replicated by individual community-driven workforce initiatives: Going Home, Huiana, Workforce Solutions, Veterans, welfare-to-work, etc.
- C. Going Home System for Hawaii County and Hawaii State: Assist GH 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.
- D. 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 rep to coordinate needs of businesses; consult with HIWEDO to issue scholarships, etc. with focus on awareness and infusion of STEM and Green Practices.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.





# Business-Education PARTNERSHIP

*A partnership for a quality workforce.*

P.O. Box 5089 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-1089

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Takamine 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*

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

*pg 2 of 2*



GOVERNOR  
Linda Lingle

SUPERINTENDENT



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

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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 students who are 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. Students attending rural schools, such as Pahoa High School, are finally provided with transportation to and from their respective internships which are located in Hilo. This has been made possible with funding provided by HIWEDO and we really appreciate it!

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.

Sincerely,

Julie Ann Beck

Huiana Internship Site Coordinator,  
Pahoa High & Intermediate School

15-3038 Puna Road

Pahoa, HI 96778

(808) 965-2150 ext. 133

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR  
SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

RE: SB549RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

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 neighborhood 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. I ask for your support to HB2549 as it pertains to our 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.

*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 can go to Honolulu for health care and services. This is a terrible health disparity in rural community that impacts minority population. 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. We have had major conferences regarding this 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 are the incentives that keep / retain them on our Big Island.

*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 rep 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 support Hawaii County’s workforce initiatives through this appropriation to provide long-term social and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Sincerely,

*Jane Shibuya*, President

12-Mile Kumiai Association - Kurtistown



# GOING HOME

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

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010 at 3:00pm

Dear Chair Takamine 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** 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 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.

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



Testimony  
By Ted Sakai  
Senate Bill 2549, Relating to Employment Security  
Senate Committee on Labor  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I support the passage of Senate Bill 2549, 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 Consortium. 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, which 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. In fact, Going Home has become a model for collaboration that needs to be replicated throughout Hawaii. SB 2549 will enable Going Home to continue its current efforts and perhaps develop even more creative approaches to help the criminal offender.

I urge you to pass SB 2549 and appropriate the funds that are needed now more than ever.

Thank you.

*Ted I. Sakai and Associates*  
47-571 Ahuimanu Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Ph: 808-722-3111 e-mail: sakait005@hawaii.rr.com

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR  
SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

**RE: SB2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

My name is Audrey Kagawa 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 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. I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Audrey Kagawa  
Hilo, Hawaii

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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 Huiana Internship program for youth.

I have worked with this program since its inception. Being a part of the State of Hawaii, Department of Education, Career and Technical Education Resource Teacher for East Hawaii, I created and schools implemented a .5 credit course titled "Work-Based Learning" which allows a student to receive a .5 credit (repeatable) for 60 hours of internship (paid or unpaid) learning. Thus, students gain experience and earn credit which can also be applied toward their Personal Transition Plan.

I am asking for your support in the State legislature to appropriate up to \$2,000,000 from these federal funds to enable Huiana to serve more students and develop support programs to serve our youth.

Supporting Hawaii County's young, developing workforce through this appropriation will provide long-term social and economic benefits. And Laupahoehoe High is a part of this initiative.

Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB 2549.

Sincerely,

*Daniel B Banks*

**Daniel B Banks**  
**Career and Technical Education Resource Teacher for East Hawaii**

P O Box 311  
Hakalau, HI 96710-0311  
Tel 808.989.5036

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR  
SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

**RE: SB2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Dyanne D. Affonso 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 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. I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Dyanne D. Affonso  
Research Director





February 8, 2010

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine and Committee members:

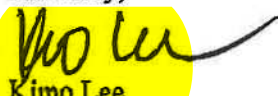
I am writing on behalf of **support for SB 2549**, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences 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.

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

Sincerely,

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

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

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



February 8, 2010

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorene Hough". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lorene Hough  
Hawaii County General Manager





## Subaru Telescope

630 North Nimitz Highway, Haleakala, HI 96720, U.S.A.

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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.

Sincerely yours,

  
Kumiko S. Usuda, Ph.D.

Outreach Scientist  
Subaru Telescope  
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR**  
**SENATOR DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR**  
**SENATOR BRIAN T. TANAGUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TIME: 3:00 p.m. Conference Room 224  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

**RE: SB2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee:

My name is **Lenard Allen** 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 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. I urge the committee to pass SB2549.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Lenard Allen, MA, MFTI**

**Research and Graduate Studies**  
**University of Hawai’i at Hilo**  
Hilo, HI 96720





## Waiakea High School Senior Project

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

Fax (808)974-4880

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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.

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, education, and economic benefits. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass SB 2549.

*Nanette Manelos Bishop*

**Nanette Manelos Bishop**

Waiakea High School  
Senior Project/PTP/Huiana Coordinator

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010 at 3:00pm

Dear Chair Takamine and Committee Members:

My name is **Ronelle Hulama** and I am presently employed with **Alu Like, Inc.** I currently sit on the Going Home Committee and part of the One Stop.

I 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.

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.

  
Ronelle K.H. Hualma  
Alu Like, Inc.  
32 Kinoole St. #102  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808)-961-2625



To: The Honorable Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair, Committee on Labor

From: Edwina Minglana-Kelly, Director of Employment Services  
Laura Robertson, President/CEO  
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: February 8, 2010

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2549 – Relating to Employment Security

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.

73-4876 Kanalani 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



February 8, 2010

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair  
Committee on Labor  
Support of SB 2549  
Hearing: February 9, 2010, 3:00pm

Dear Sen. Dwight Takamine 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.

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.

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

Wayne K. Iokepa

**Technical Operations Manager**

Oceanic Time Warner Cable – Hawai'i County