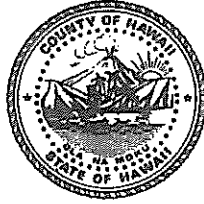


TESTIMONY

SB2549

LATE

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Michael Gleason
Chairman

Wayne Higaki
1st Vice-Chairman

Kimo Lee
2nd Vice Chairman

County of Hawai'i
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
50 Wailuku Drive • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2484
V/T (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



HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

47 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2013
Tel: (808) 961-2681 / Fax: (808) 935-9213

TESTIMONY TO:

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

RE: SB2549 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

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

My name is Sandra P. Song, Executive Director of Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC), and I respectfully request your support of SB2549, which appropriates Reed Act monies to the four county Workforce Investment Boards. 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.

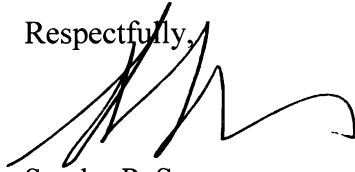
Passing of SB2549 shall provide an infusion of Reed Act funding to the Big Island and can support the following initiatives:

- Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) offers an array of services and opportunities for low-income and TANF individuals to become economically self-sufficient through educational programs, pre-employment activities, job-training programs, home energy assistance, financial literacy, temporary emergency food assistance, transportation services, and community incubator kitchens.
- 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.

Your support of SB 2549 allows Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) to continue providing services to low-income and TANF individuals in Hawaii County, resulting in long-term economic benefits for our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra P. Song', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandra P. Song
Executive Director



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 305, WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793, USA

Telephone: (808) 270-7710 • Facsimile: (808) 270-7995 • Email: economic.development@mauicounty.gov

February 9, 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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Maui County Workforce Investment Board in support of HB 2549. Our Board and community partners are interested in programs that aid in the development and strengthening of our Maui County workforce to better prepare our residents for future jobs. This ultimately contributes to the viability of our workforce and our community.

We are requesting that this Legislature appropriate \$1,601,287 from Federal Reed Act funds for Maui County initiatives. We will continue to work with individuals and businesses on Maui, Molokai and Lanai to help keep remain competitive in this global market which is vital to our County's economic develop and business attraction efforts. Our programs, for both adults and youths, will continue to provide individuals with the resources and tools necessary to overcome barriers and to be able to position themselves in the job market with improved skills.

We humbly request your assistance with this appropriation and look forward to continuing the workforce programs in our County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn Inamasu".

JoAnn Inamasu
Deputy Coordinator

cc: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator J. Kalani English
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui
Ronald D. Nelson, Chair, Maui County Workforce Investment Board



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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February 9, 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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Maui County Workforce Investment Board in support of HB 2549. Our Board and community partners are interested in programs that aid in the development and strengthening of our Maui County workforce to better prepare our residents for future jobs. This ultimately contributes to the viability of our workforce and our community.

We are requesting that this Legislature appropriate \$1,601,287 from Federal Reed Act funds for Maui County initiatives. We will continue to work with individuals and businesses on Maui, Molokai and Lanai to help keep remain competitive in this global market which is vital to our County's economic develop and business attraction efforts. Our programs, for both adults and youths, will continue to provide individuals with the resources and tools necessary to overcome barriers and to be able to position themselves in the job market with improved skills.

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Respectfully submitted,

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JoAnn Inamasu
Deputy Coordinator

cc: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senator J. Kalani English
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui
Ronald D. Nelson, Chair, Maui County Workforce Investment Board

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 Kathleen Romero 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,


Kathleen Romero