

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 9, 2010

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

10:10am

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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 Hui'ah 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:

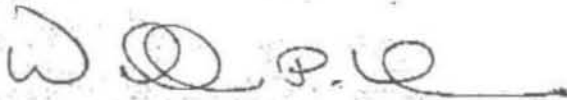
- The Hawai'i Health Care Alliance (HIHA) – This partnership is designed to recruit and retain health care professionals to address the critical shortage of health care professionals on Hawai'i Island.
- Business Incubator (Micro Biz Initiative) – Under this initiative, the newly established Business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

- **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 line extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

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ALU LIKE INC.

PAGE 01/01



ALU LIKE, Inc.

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

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415 South Beretania Street

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

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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)

GOING HOME

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

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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, Huihana, 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 Huihana 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

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

10:10am

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State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

CS10:039T:LKR

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.

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Support of SB 2549 SD1

Dear Chair Kim 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 HIVEDO/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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

10:10am

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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



WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OHANA

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday February 23, 2010

TIME: 10:10am

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: SB2549 SD1

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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.

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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

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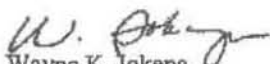
415 South Beretania Street

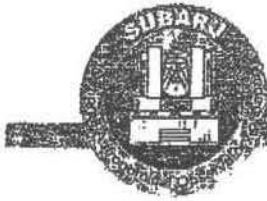
I am writing on behalf of support for SB 2549, a bill that would provide funding for several programs on Hawaii Island including the unique and successful Going Home consortium and Huiana Internship program for youth. Huiana screens and recruits student interested in work-based learning experiences and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


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



Subaru Telescope

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan
650 North Nimitz Drive, Haleiwa, HI 96721, USA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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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,

Kih Usuda
Kumiko S. Usuda, Ph.D.

Outreach Scientist

Subaru Telescope

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan



Waiakea High School Senior Project

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

Fax (808)974-4880

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

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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.

Nanette Manelos Bishop

Waiakea High School

Senior Project/PTP/Huiana Coordinator



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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.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Tuesday February 23, 2010

10:10am

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State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

Testimony
By Ted Sakai
Senate Bill 2549, SD1, Relating to Employment Security
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 10:10 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

I support the passage of Senate Bill 2549, SD 1, 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, SD 1 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