



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
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February 7, 2011

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business

Date: Tuesday, February 8
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Mila Kahaanui, Executive Director
Office of Community Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Re: H.B. 1512/1513 Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy

Good Morning Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members. My name is Mila Kaahanui, Executive Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS), an agency administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of these measures.

The Office of Community Services and the Weed and Seed Program as currently run have been partners for a number of years through the 42F grant process. We would like to make some comments on some of the particulars of the two measures before you today.

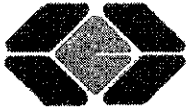
Programmatically speaking, OCS supports the Weed and Seed strategy program. It has proven effective in assisting communities with building the lifestyle they envision for their neighborhoods. However, we will defer to the Legislature, the Governor, and Department of Budget and Finance with regards to any issue involving the funding priorities of the State.

Here are some comments to consider when deciding on how best to implement Weed and Seed:

- 1) **42F grants have no guarantee of being released.** Although Grant-In-Aids have provided funding for many worthwhile projects, they have been primarily used to fund pilot projects for operating grants and one-time capital improvement projects when appropriated as General Obligation bonds or “C” funds. Long-term projects have traditionally not been funded through GIA.
- 2) **Program establishment will necessitate procurement proceedings.** The 42F process allows the Legislature to name a specific agency to administer the funds without regard to the 103D or 103F process. This will not be the case if a permanent program is established. Although the YMCA has undertaken a long-term commitment to house this program, there is no guarantee they will be the winning bidder in the procurement cycle.
- 3) **Program establishment will establish a statewide service area.** OCS will defer to the YMCA and program managers as to the correct amount of funding to run the program. Should the program be established, the Legislature should consider what the program costs would be to adequately fund a program throughout the state, as there are also Weed and Seed eligible districts in other jurisdictions, such as the County of Hawaii.
- 4) **42f grants carry no additional administrative costs.** OCS firmly believes this is the time to ask government to do more. As such, we administer each 42F grant referred to our office under our existing budget, with no additional staff cost to the State. Last year, out of \$41 million dollars and 52 projects, 33% of the projects and 35% of the total funding for GIA’s statewide were allocated to our small office. 42F allows us to monitor each contract once for the life of the contract. With regular program establishment, we would add additional monitoring and program development duties equal to that of our current State and Federally-funded programs. We ask you consider this when developing a funding amount.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on these measures.

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



February 8, 2011

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Members
House Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

RE: H.B. 1512 and H.B. 1513 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309 , State Capitol

I am Debbie Luning, an employee of Gentry Homes and a member of the Ewa Weed and Seed Steering Committee. I am testifying in strong support of H.B. 1512 and H.B. 1513, which are appropriation measures to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in communities on Oahu

As the developer of a residential community within the Ewa Weed and Seed site, Gentry is very supportive of continued funding for the Weed and Seed strategy. We are proud to be a part of the collaborative effort involving law enforcement, citizens, non-profit organizations, social service agencies, community groups and private businesses (such as ours) and are pleased that Ewa is undergoing a positive transformation. Violent and drug-related crimes have been reduced substantially, large drug dealers have been "weeded out" and "seeding" programs have been implemented for families and youth. .

The Weed and Seed strategy is working. However, we need to continue the efforts to restore neighborhoods and the families that live within, and I urge your support of these bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Luning'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Debra M. A. Luning
Director of Governmental Affairs and
Community Relations



Ewa Beach
91-919 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 1512 and HB 1513 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Through its neighborhood restoration efforts I have seen first hand the decline of graffiti in the area. With law enforcement and community policing truancy has declined tremendously. The Ewa Beach community has become a clean and safe place to live and work in due to the success of Weed and Seed.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support HB 1512 and HB 1513.

Sincerely,

Richard Quiamzon
Restaurant Manager
McDonald's of Ewa Beach

To: Senator Henry J.C. Aquino and Ty Cullen

Subject: H.B. 1512, Related to Weed and Seed Strategy.

Hearing Date: Feb. 8, 2011 9:00am in House Conference room 309

The purpose of this bill is to establish the weed and seed strategy under the department of labor and industrial relations and to make an appropriation. Weed and Seed strategy is a U.S Department of Justice program designed to “weed” out criminal elements from neighborhoods, and “seed” community involvement through clean-up, citizen patrols and other venues.

I support this bill because community participation is important to create healthy local community. As successful evidences of weed and seed strategy, reports show significant reduction in crimes. Since 1997, the weed and seed program reduced murder, larceny theft and aggravated assault by 66 percent and assaults, vandalism, and prostitutions by 75 percent in five years. To create comfortable community life in Hawaii, it is important to maintain crime reduction and to expand better community environment in other areas. Overall, I support this bill to be established under the department of labor and industrial relations and to get funded for purpose of expanding comfortable community throughout the island.

From: Asuka Mitani

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 1512 and HB 1513 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

I am a resident, business owner and I have two children attending school in Ewa. I have seen the improvement in my community from Weed and Seeds efforts. The degenerates have lessened but are not gone. However, if Weed & Seeds goes the crooks will be back in droves.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support HB 1512 and HB 1513.

Sincerely,



Jim Moylan
91-1001 Kaimalie St. #204A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

cc: Representative Henry Aquino
Representative Ty Cullen
Representative Sylvia Luke
Representative Linda Ichiyama
Representative Marilyn Lee
Representative Scott Saiki
Representative Joseph Souki
Representative Roy Takumi
Representative George Fontaine
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

yamashita2 ----

From: Mary Lacques [maryl@hcapweb.org]
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 3:39 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1512 and HB 1513

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 1512 and HB 1513 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to continue vital funding for the Weed and Seed Program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

I am a preschool teacher with Honolulu Community Action Program Head Start, and have partnered with Waipahu Weed and Seed since the fall of 2008. Our Preschool on Wheels homeless outreach program has been successful, due in large part, to this relationship. We were able to transform the Weed and Seed Safe Haven apartment into a preschool classroom and resource learning center for Waipahu homeless and other at-risk families living in the complex. This partnership also included the Department of Health and various other non-profit organizations and community members. Weed and Seed was the “glue” that kept our efforts in alignment for the greater good of the Waipahu neighborhoods. In addition to our weekly classes, we collaborated oftentimes, on the weekends, which is the most crucial time to engage with families, and when so much vital information is disseminated. I urge you to support HB 1512 and HB 1513, and I thank you in advance for your dedication to the health and sustainability of the community.

Sincerely,

Mary Lacques

P.O Box 14

Haleiwa HI 96712

cc: Representative Henry Aquino
Representative Ty Cullen
Representative Sylvia Luke
Representative Linda Ichiyama
Representative Marilyn Lee
Representative Scott Saiki
Representative Joseph Souki
Representative Roy Takumi
Representative George Fontaine
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

February 7, 2011

Rochelle Kalili, Waipahu Resident
94/207 Waipahu Street, Apt. 196
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808)861-6574

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:
RE: H.B. 1512 and H.B. 1513 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

I am appealing for your support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihī-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

As a parent of 6 children and 1 grandchild living in Waipahu, my first priority is the safety of my family. Unfortunately, my home of 18 years, Waipahu, has the stigma of being a bad place to live. While I acknowledge that we have criminal and drug issues, I also know that Waipahu is a safer place to live because of Weed and Seed. Through Weed and Seed, we have a team of officers who are designated to work hand in hand with the community to solve problems. In fact, just last year, they arrested some people for prostitution near where I live.

As a parent-community facilitator at an area elementary school, I have seen the improvement in the way our students/children relate to police officers. In the past, many of our children viewed officers as aggressive people who only caused harm to their 'ohana. Through the partnerships that the Weed & Seed officers have created, it has changed their views. They now see police officers as people who are looking out for their best interests. Weed and Seed has educated individuals on how drugs and other negative influences ruin families and community. Weed and Seed has empowered residents to take back their community. As the saying goes, "Ohana means no one is left behind." I believe that because of Weed and Seed, no one in Waipahu is left behind.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support HB 1512 and HB 1513.

Sincerely,



Rochelle Kalili

cc: Representative Henry Aquino

Representative Ty Cullen

Representative Sylvia Luke

Representative Linda Ichiyama

Representative Marilyn Lee

Representative Scott Saiki

Representative Joseph Souki

Representative Roy Takumi

Representative George Fontaine

Representative Aaron Ling Johnson

From: Valerie_Hudcovic/LEEDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 11:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1512 & HB 1513 - Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy
Attachments: GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Aquino.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Cullen.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Fontaine.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_ichiyama.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Johanson.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Lee.doc; GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Luke.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Rhoads.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Saiki.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Souki.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Takumi.doc;
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Yamashita.doc

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GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Cullen.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Fontaine.doc)*

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GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Johanson.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Lee.doc)*

*(See attached file: GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Luke.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Rhoads.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Saiki.doc)*

*(See attached file: GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Souki.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Takumi.doc) (See attached file:
GIA_Letter_Of_Support_GENERAL_Yamashita.doc)*

Ms Valerie Hudcovic
45-175 Ohaha Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Honorable Representative Yamashita
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita:

Re: GRANT-IN-AID FOR THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am writing to request your support of the grant-in-aid request to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community. I am a school social worker for the Department of Education; Waipahu Complex and have been working in the Waipahu community for the past 15 years. Besides working directly in the Waipahu Schools, I also go out into the community to work with our families. When I first started working in Waipahu, I use to have a sense of fear especially when doing home visits in the Ani Ani and Pupuole areas due to the violence and high crime rate. Today; however, I do not have that same feeling of fear that I once had due to the efforts of the Weed and Seed strategy. Since the Weed and Seed strategy came to Waipahu, drug related crimes have decreased. I have seen more involvement of the residents, community groups, organizations and private businesses work together to make Waipahu a safer community. I see much more collaboration among these various groups and most of all the caring efforts of all those involved. I believe the Weed and Seed strategy has been a big contributing factor to this that has helped Waipahu become a stronger community.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to support the request for the Weed and Seed Grant-In-Aid.

Sincerely,

Valerie Hudcovic
DOE School Social Worker
Waipahu Complex

February 7, 2011

LATE



Friends for Boys & Girls Club

Ewa Beach

Hale Pono Clubhouse

91-884 Ft. Weaver Rd. Suite A

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Tel: 808-689-4182

Fax: 808-689-0625

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Arthur Pelkaus

Richard Quiamzon

Georgette Stevens

Sharene Tam

Eric Wong

Stacey Yonamine

Members At Large

Hervi Kurisu

Liana Mulleitner

Tana Samuolu

Clubhouse Director

Frances Rivero

Executive Director

David Nakada

The Honorable Kari Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Rhodes and Committee Members:

RE: H.B. 1512 and H.B. 1513 relating to WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Weed and Seed is a multi faceted collaboration that includes residents, law enforcement, social service providers, educators, area businesses and other resources to reduce crime and illegal drugs to improve the quality of life for neighborhoods in Hawaii. The Weed and Seed Missions is to:

- o Support responsible, community-driven initiatives;
- o Engage all members of the community;
- o Support economic and social well-being;
- o Encourage institutions and organizations to change the way they operate to be
- o More responsive;
- o Teach and model collaborations;
- o Support "Hui Malama" (Caring for others)

Weed and Seed is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative administered locally through the U.S. Attorney's office. Organized into four integrated components; law enforcement; community policing; prevention; intervention and treatment; and neighborhood restoration. Weed and Seed brings together community members, law enforcement, government agencies, businesses and non-profit to build healthier communities in two primary ways: "weeding" to remove criminals, especially substance abusers and dealers from the community; and "seeding" to provide a safe environment services designed to prevent crime and drug-use.

We need your help to continue the work that Weed and Seed has done for your community. You can help by supporting the two subject bills which provide funding to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in our communities as Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Sincerely,

Frances Rivero
Director, Hale Pono Clubhouse
Ewa Beach



"The Positive Place for Kids"

LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Labor and & Public Employment
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 326
Honolulu , Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1512 AND H.B. 1513 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2011; 9:00am
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed, and now retired from the YMCA of Honolulu. I have been the Director of Weed and Seed for the past 12 years.

I am testifying in strong support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to sustain the Weed and Seed Strategy in Kalihi/Palama/Chinatown/Ala Moana, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the designated neighborhoods. The fundamental principles that underlie the Weed and Seed strategy are: Collaboration, Coordination, Community Participation and Leveraging resources.

I have seen the improvement in the three communities by the increase in participation of Neighborhood Security Watches, attendance at community events and activities, and addressing specific neighborhood issues such as truancy and youth gangs. Citizen participation increases the eyes and ears of law enforcement and makes neighborhoods safer for everyone.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work to improve their communities to be a safe place to live and raise their families.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

2/8/11

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 1512 and HB 1513 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support of HB 1512 and HB 1513 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

As a Department of Health Public Health Nurse and a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition, I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. The officers and site coordinator work actively with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They've organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They've assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy, drug-free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated professionals to improve Waipahu and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support HB 1512 and HB 1513.

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN

cc: Representative Henry Aquino
Representative Ty Cullen
Representative Sylvia Luke

Representative Linda Ichiyama

Representative Marilyn Lee

Representative Scott Saiki

Representative Joseph Souki

Representative Roy Takumi

Representative George Fontaine

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson