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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

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,

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State of Hawaii
Department of Health
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