



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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

February 9, 2012

To: The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair,
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary

Date: Friday, February 10, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2773 HD1 Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB 2773HD1 would establish a Weed and Seed program in the DLIR, through the Office of Community Services (OCS) to maintain the program in areas currently designated for the Weed and Seed program and expand the program into other areas of the state. The bill would also appropriate \$336,000 in General Funds for the program.

The department supports this measure as long as its passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration. DLIR has comments similar to the ones outlined in greater detail by OCS regarding the implementation of the measure.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to chapter 42F. A permanent program does not exist.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

OCS has administered a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the Weed and Seed Program for a number of years. This measure establishes a new program within DLIR to maintain and expand the current program. The department notes that a low-income or disadvantaged requirement will need to be added to fit within the statutory mandate of OCS. Moreover, it appears that the current appropriation in the bill does

not account for all the potential administrative costs. DLIR notes that the budget for OCS at both the state and federal levels has decreased over the last few budget cycles. DLIR defers to DHRD on the fiscal impact for police overtime.

In sum, the department appreciates the overall concept of this measure and is supportive as long as its passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration and the potential challenges in implementation are addressed.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 10, 2012

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2773, H.D.1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2011; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2773, H.D.1 is to allow the Office of Community Services within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to contract out for services to be provided under the Weed and Seed Program and to appropriate funds for the program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of H.B. 2773, H.D.1 to help with a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization, and defers to the DLIR as to the placement of the weed and seed program.

The existing Weed and Seed Honolulu is currently under the umbrella of the YMCA. The Weed and Seed is involved with community revitalization in Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kalihi-Palama. At the request of the Governor's Office, the Weed and Seed was asked to re-establish its program at the Mayor Wright Homes. The DHS coordinated with Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Public Safety, U.S. Housing and Urban

Development, and U.S. Attorney's Office, and Weed and Seed Honolulu to facilitate the return of the Weed and Seed Honolulu to Mayor Wright Homes. As a result of the coordinated effort and collaboration among these agencies, a one year Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon by the parties to have the Weed and Seed Honolulu assist HPHA in improving the security and safety environment at MWH and to help provide social programs that benefits the residents of MWH.

The Weed and Seed Honolulu has a track record of success in all the communities that it has been involved with. The DHS supports its existence, the intent of this measure, and supports the proposed appropriation for the weed and seed program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

February 10, 2012

To: The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on the Judiciary

Date: Friday, February 10, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Mila Kaahanui, MSW
Executive Director
Office of Community Services (OCS)

Testimony for House Bill 2773, HD1-Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The current proposal, HB 2773, HD1, would create a Weed and Seed program in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), through the Office of Community Services, as well as create a new requirement for a report to the Legislature to be submitted by the Department. The bill would also appropriate \$336,000 in General Funds for the program.

The Office of Community Services supports this legislation, with a few comments on implementation.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to Chapter 42F. A permanent program does not exist.

III. COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL

In general, OCS is supportive of the program. During the administration of this grant, it is evident the agencies involved work hard to create community coordination. The agencies also

provide intangible support to persons dedicated to improving their own lives and the lives of their fellow community members.

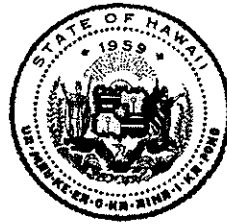
Unlike the original version of this bill, the Office of Community Services has now been directly tasked with the implementation of the program. With this task and the history of the program in mind, OCS would offer the following, more specific comments:

- 1) OCS has, since the last incarnation of the bill, spoken to other agencies regarding intergovernmental transfers of funds to pay for employees of other jurisdictions. There are a few impediments, and some time will be necessary for the negotiation and execution of any Agreements between the individual County Corporation Counsels and our assigned Deputy Attorney General.
- 2) OCS will still defer to the Department of Human Resources Development with regard to any impact Police overtime may have on the expenses of the DLIR, for example, the payment of fringe benefits at the increased rate if the State is identified as the “employer” in this case.
- 3) Given that OCS would contract for services with providers, there will definitely be a procurement process to identify the most competitive provider to execute the program. Since the State is the procuring entity, this may result in a statewide procurement for all Federally-eligible Weed and Seed sites, including the Big Island. If a state eligibility requirement were to be instituted, this would again necessitate a state wide procurement to give equal opportunity to all counties.
- 4) Given our concerns regarding paragraph 3, the budgetary figure placed in the bill may be an estimate based on previous 42F grants for the three O`ahu sites, and may not take into account the needs of any fourth site or the costs incurred by the State agency administering the contract. If the intent of the Legislature is to have \$336,000 the total contracted amount of the program, some consideration must be given to administrative cost. The additional time needed to plan, procure, and administer the contract we believe, with salary and the current State rate of 39% fringe, to be a total of \$60,300. This includes direct monitoring costs, and salaries and fringe at .75FTE of a Program Specialist, and point .02FTE of our Procurement Officer, Executive Director, and Accounting staff. Because OCS has been continuously cut from our Federal and State sources and our staff is now at 9 individuals, if no funds are added for administrative costs, overhead will come directly out of another program’s funds if the appropriated amount is procured in its entirety.
- 5) OCS will need to add some type of low-income or disadvantaged requirement to fulfill our statutory mandate.
- 6) OCS agrees transparency in government is necessary, however would prefer to submit one annual report encompassing all our activities. We believe separate reports for each program are duplicative and an inefficient use of our staff time. In the current wording, it appears a separate report would be required to the Legislature.

- 7) Finally, OCS will defer to the Governor's Office and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations with regard how this bill will fit into the overall funding priorities of the proposed Executive Biennium Budget.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Blvd. 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

JODIE F. MAESAKA-HIRATA
DIRECTOR

MARTHA TORNEY
Deputy Director of
Administration

JOE W. BOOKER, JR.
Deputy Director
Corrections

KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2773 HD1
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Committee on Judiciary
Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 325

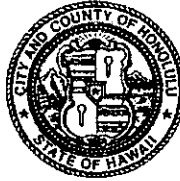
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of House Bill 2773 HD1 that would establish the "Weed and Seed Program" under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. PSD's Law Enforcement Division is presently participating in the "Weed and Seed Program" and is currently working in the Mayor Wright Housing complex. PSD's Law Enforcement Division is assisting the Honolulu Police Department in conducting random patrols in the Mayor Wright Housing complex with the goal of decreasing criminal activity in the area. The Department feels that this program has merit and a successful track record of improving communities where they are situated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WC-MK

February 10, 2012

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Re: House Bill No. 2773, HD1, Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I am Major William R. Chur of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 5 (Kalihi), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2773, HD1. This bill establishes and appropriates a Weed and Seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and provides funding for the program.

As a partner in the Weed and Seed program since its inception several years ago, the HPD recognizes the benefits of the program in reducing crime and improving the quality of life for people who live and work in the Weed and Seed designated communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

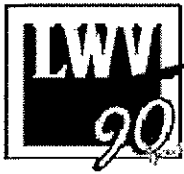
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William R. Chur in black ink.

FOR WILLIAM R. CHUR, Major

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Louis M. Kealoha in black ink.
per
LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS*

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

House Committee on Judiciary
Chair Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads

Friday 2/10/12 at 2:00 PM in Room 325
HB 2596 — RELATING TO OPEN GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters supports this bill but requests two amendments.

First, we recommend that the bill set a reasonable time limit within which an agency may appeal a decision by the Office of Information Practices (OIP). Appeals would be prohibited unless filed within the time limit.

Second, unless an agency has filed a timely appeal of an OIP decision, we recommend that the bill prohibit an agency from later challenging the decision. Without such a prohibition, a member of the public filing an action to compel agency compliance with an OIP decision might find themselves fighting an agency challenge of that decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

The Weed and Seed Strategy has been and continues to be a major factor in improving the health and safety of my community. The truancy rate at area schools has fallen significantly since Weed & Seed came to Ewa Beach. Officers, residents and students walk neighborhood streets regularly as part of citizen patrols. In addition, Weed and Seed organizes volunteers to paint out graffiti and clean up parks, and provides valuable life skills and job training via "seeding" efforts such as the summer culinary arts program. By having the Weed & Seed police officers working hand in hand with residents, students, and businesses, fear is replaced by respect – and residents are inspired to work together to keep our community clean and safe.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 HB2773 HD1. Thank you for your support and consideration

Sincerely,

Sharene Saito Tam
Vice President
Haseko Development, Inc.

Testimony in support of HB 2773 H.D.1.

Testimony in support of HB 2773 H.D.1.

Jeffrey Alameida [jeff@empoweroahu.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 12:46 PM

To: JUDtestimony

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 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 have helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Empower Oahu has worked with Weed and Seed in each of the project communities through its Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Strengthening Programs. In addition, it plays an integral role in meeting the social and economic objectives outlined in each communities Neighborhood Plan.

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 2773 H.D.1.

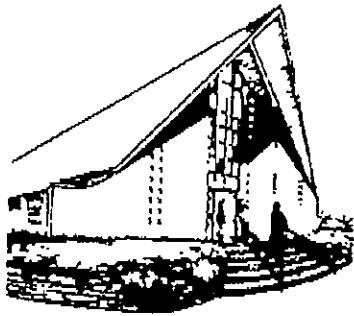
Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kalani Alameida, CFP
Executive Director
Empower O`ahu

www.empoweroahu.org

808.676.7679

P.O. Box 983
Waialua HI 96791



Kalihi Baptist Church

1888 Owawa Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-4255
Telephone and Fax: (808) 845-4584

John Vaughn, Pastor

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773, HD 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

Weed & Seed has been particularly effective in the area of Kalihi Valley Homes, and the surrounding Kam IV Rd. area. The work done within the Weed & Seed strategy has given us ways to work together to make our community safer. Church members feel encouraged and supported to give a little extra time and effort to our neighborhood. We remove graffiti and pick up trash on a regular basis whenever we can. Through Weed & Seed we have learned not to wait around or expect others (like government) to do what we can very easily do for ourselves.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773, HD 1.

Sincerely,

Pastor John Vaughn



Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine support Weed & Seed by providing space in its publications free-of-charge. Projects carried out by the community collaborative partners throughout the Weed & Seed sites are models of crime prevention and reduction successes that can be modeled throughout our State.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773.

Sincerely,


Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley
Owner

P.O. Box 38017 • Honolulu, HI 96837 • (808) 585-6231 • <http://hawaii-most-wanted.com>

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LINAPUNI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1434 LINAPUNI STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

The dedication of Weed & Seed staff and police officers; to connect to our students, school and community, has inspired school faculty to work a little bit later and do a little bit more for community-based prevention projects. These activities, that have helped educate our families, inevitably help stabilize our students for better success and attendance in school.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Sunahara", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia Sunahara
Principal
Linapuni Elementary School
1434 Linapuni Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

586-6211

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
 The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
 & Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
 State Capitol
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

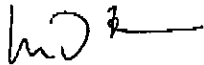
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Weed and Seed has always supported our school, Waipahu Intermediate, by responding to any emergency calls where police is needed, helped with addressing our at-risk populations, worked with students on a one-on-one basis, given us consultation on a case to case basis...the list goes on. If Weed and Seed is eliminated, our school will have lost an important community partner who helps us educate our students on how to be contributing citizens to society.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Lisa T. Ynigues
 Waipahu Intermediate School
 Vice Principal
 808-675-0177

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu , Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 2773 HD1 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012; 2:00pm
Conference Room 325, 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 HB2773HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed Program.

Weed and Seed is a program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii, in partnership with the YMCA of Honolulu.

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. It is a robust program, doing substantial good in our communities to improve the quality of life.

The State has benefited greatly from the Weed and Seed Program and that is based on the two-pronged approach of "weeding out" criminal activity and introducing "seeding" activities and programs ensuring long-term positive changes and a better quality of life for stakeholders.

There are no funds available for Weed and Seed from the Department of Justice. We are depending on local government and private donations to continue the program. The current funds end in October of 2012.

We have been asked by the Administration to focus on Mayor Wright Homes to address some of the recent incidents which jeopardizes the safe and decent housing for our families in Public Housing. We will need the support of the Legislature to do this.

I would like to propose the following amendments:

1) Page 3, line 3: The purpose of this Act is to:
Appropriate funds for a grant-in-aid to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Honolulu to support the operations of the Weed and Seed Program through the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services.

2) Page 3, SECTION 2

The Weed and Seed Program shall be a collaborative effort among community residents, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, educators, area businesses and other resource agencies and support organizations to:

(1) Create, initiate, implement, and support responsible community-based activities, projects and services that help reduce crime and drug use in neighborhoods:

(2) Engage members of the community to encourage the development and maintenance of economic and social well-being; and

(3) Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on sustainable results.
No later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session of the legislature, the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services shall submit report to the legislature and the governor on its activities relating to the weed and seed program, including projects completed or ongoing, funds expended, and other relevant data or information on the program.

The YMCA of Honolulu has been the fiscal agent and employer of the Weed and Seed staff for the past twelve years.

After speaking with staff from the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services, as well as staff from the Attorney General's office, the alternative of a grant-in-aid is preferable to establishing Weed and Seed as a program within the Labor Department.

The Office of Community Service has in the past, been a Program Manager of funds for Weed and Seed. Most of the residents served are from low to moderate income households and many are immigrant families.

Thank you for your consideration.

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.B. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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 live in Waianae and I have managed the 'Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center for 5+ years developing Community Media Access with schools and organizations in Waipahu. I am a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition, and prior, helped develop the 'Olelo Waianae Community Media Center for 5 years. I have witnessed HPD's community efforts as enforcement having success when they arrive in a crisis. However, the Weed and Seed Officers have created a unique presence in the community and developed a deep relationship with organizations, youth, families and businesses. The Weed and Seed officers and program have created a sense of security that stems from being present, involved and caring for the people and community they serve. The Weed and Seed officers are very different from other HPD officers. The Weed and Seed officers have created a relationship that starts with very young youth that help to develop a level of respect for authority, law and order. Their presence embedded into the fabric of Waipahu changes the dynamics and behavior of the community for the positive. They make a difference. They have a positive impact. They make it safe for all to thrive and succeed. Please support Weed and Seed.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

James "Sparky" Rodrigues
94-455 Farrington Highway
Waipahu HI 96797
808-671-3950 office
808-352-0059 cell

HB 2773 H.D. 1 - SUPPORTING THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Eric Wong [ewong@mutual-housing.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 3:00 PM

To: JUDtestimony

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

On behalf of the Kekaulike Courtyards residents here in Chinatown, we are part of an active Citizen Patrol unit under the Honolulu Police Department supported by assigned Weed and Seed, Community Policing police officers. We believe this working relationship as their 'eyes and ears' for and with the police department creates a safer community for those working and living in Chinatown.

I hope you will agree that Weed and Seed is a critical community resource and organizational tool that needs to be continued. Your support of this critical program ensures our community partners continue building a strong network of committed citizens earnestly preventing crime. Weed and Seed is critical in our community thus I humbly urge that you support HB 2773 H.D. 1. ; we cannot afford to let crime takes its place in our communities.

Sincerely,

Eric Wong | Property Manager | Kekaulike Courtyards | (808)-545-2993

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773, HD1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

Weed & Seed has helped our Downtown community to be a much safer place to live. Weed & Seed police regularly come out to support us as we conduct our weekly Citizen's Patrol Walks. The Weed & Seed has made sure that we have the necessary supplies and equipment that keep us safe. Weed & Seed stands for a belief in the importance of the community's voice being heard at all levels. This is important to me as a resident of the Downtown/Chinatown area, as it can get quite quarrelsome and political at times.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773.

Sincerely,



Dolores Mollring
Resident
Downtown Citizens Patrol Block Captain
1255 Nuuanu Ave., E807
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773, HD 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

Working in public housing in the Kamehameha Homes and Kaahumanu Homes communities, I have seen the impact of the Weed & Seed program to reduce and prevent crime. Through its support of the tenant associations and the prevention activities that they conduct throughout the year; through graffiti removal and area beautification and through the establishment of Citizen's Patrols and regular communication and contact with district HPO officers; Weed & Seed has proven itself to be an integral part of the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773, HD 1.

Sincerely,



Shaunna Okuda
Public Housing Specialist II
State of Hawaii
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773, HD 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

Working in public housing in the Kamehameha Homes and Kaahumanu Homes communities, I have seen the impact of the Weed & Seed program to reduce and prevent crime. Through its support of the tenant associations and the prevention activities that they conduct throughout the year; through graffiti removal and area beautification and through the establishment of Citizen's Patrols and regular communication and contact with district HPD officers; Weed & Seed has proven itself to be an integral part of the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773, HD 1.

Sincerely,



Wade Kau
BMW Supervisor II
Kamehameha Homes
State of Hawaii
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

February 9, 2012
The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:
Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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 preschool teacher at Blessing from Heaven Preschool in Ewa Beach. The Weed and Seed Officers come and visit the school and talks to the children. They also participated and helped us to beautify our playground that was covered with illegal dumping. It is nice to see law enforcement working together with the community.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Dawn Perez
Preschool Teacher
Blessing from Heaven

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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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 long time resident here in Ewa Beach. I live next to a park called Puuloa Park. It was not a good thing living next to a park because of all the illegal crimes that went on there. I use to lock myself in my own home because I was afraid. The Weed and Seed team came and encouraged us to come together and take back the park. With their help we did! I no longer regret living next to the park. It is nice to hear children laughing and playing. I would like to thank Gale Bracerros, the site coordinator. She comes and deliver food items because I am unable to go to their food distribution.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Sally Porter

Resident

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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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 long time resident and I have seen the change for the better with the help from the Weed and Seed program. To have a site coordinator working together with the community and law enforcement is what makes it work. Without them this community will go back as the "wild west".

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Cal Kimo Sueoka

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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

Weed and Seed provides excellent afterschool programs for the youths here in Ewa Beach. I have students that attend Kaimiloa Elementary School and they come and share what they learned from the Weed and Seed Officers. Jr. Bowling, Jr. Golf, and also Oceansports. Without these types of programs, there are very limited positive recreation opportunities to offer. It is such a pleasure hearing my students come and share their experiences with the Officers. Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Dolores (Dee) Gettle

Resident

Staff of Kaimiloa Elementary School

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Weed & Seed has been a healthy outlet for the youth in our community. One example is when Weed & Seed initiated and partnered with the Boys & Girls Club, Honolulu Police Department, Hawaii Prince Golf Course, and Volunteers, such as myself to put on a FREE 8 week golf clinic which included a 9 hole tournament on the last week of instruction. The youth and parents appreciated the program very much and in fact some of the older youth became volunteers the following years.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

John Ahokovi

Ewa Beach Resident



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ewa Makai Middle School
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

The Weed and Seed officers are looked upon as not only policeman but as active participants and leaders in our school setting. They have done presentations to our students about---bicycle and pedestrian safety, careers in law enforcement, and drug and alcohol awareness. They have also interacted with our students as referees in football, basketball and other sports. They have assisted us in mass evacuation and other safety drills too.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro

Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.B. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

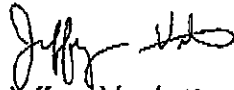
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

The Weed and Seed program has really helped the Waipahu community in its efforts to clean up the City and instill pride in Waipahu. You can see community residents, business leaders, and people from the churches and schools in Waipahu come together in support of this program. Events such as town hall meetings, graffiti paint outs, bike path clean ups, Waipahu Beautification Day, Waipahu Cane Haul Run and 3-on-3 basketball tournaments have all been organized and implemented to bring the community together and keep our children active in positive ways to prevent drugs and crime.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Ventura
Vice President & Area Manager
First Hawaiian Bank Waipahu Branch
808-671-3978

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.B. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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 had the good fortune of being the first Weed and Seed Supervisor in Hawaii and the City of Honolulu. I've seen the good work it has done and how businesses and residents have come together to make the communities safe to live in.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D.1.

Sincerely,



John Kauwenaole, Sergeant Retired
Honolulu Police Department

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Barbara Tom. I recently retired from the DOH as a Public Health Nurse but continue to work closely with the Waipahu Community Coalition which I chaired for a number of years. The Coalition's main mission is to develop a safe and healthy community for Waipahu. **The Weed and Seed Program has been an active and key partner with the Coalition in collaborating with residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses to help us focus on crime reduction and drug prevention.**

For example, one of the preventative activities that Weed and Seed leads in our community is the RAP Program provided to Waipahu and Honowai Elementary School students. RAP stands for Real and Powerful sessions. Weed & Seed conducts weekly sessions with the students on making appropriate and informed decisions on drugs, internet safety, school attendance, and bullying.

Another program offered by Weed & Seed in Waipahu is Fresh Start which in partnership with Waipahu High School and Gear Up, targets youth that are on track for failure. Weed and Seed conducts workshops and supports educational excursions that teach students and parents skills in communication, problem solving and decision making. The goal is to give these students a much needed "fresh start".

In addition to these programs, they help us organize many drug free activities for our community such as our annual Waipahu 5K Cane Haul Run/Walk, Taste of Waipahu, Historical Tour of Waipahu, Waipahu Christmas Parade and Carnival, Christmas Adopt-A-Family, etc. To eradicate the ever growing problem of neighborhood blight, Weed and Seed organizes graffiti paint outs and community clean ups. In addition, they have even been involved with a community group of Micronesian women in Pupuole and have shared information on domestic violence and other safety issues. As a Public Health Nurse, I know that prevention is often times a much more cost effective intervention than paying for drug treatment and incarceration.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Barbara Tom, Retiree and Citizen

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kari Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

I am a supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen the improvement in our community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate, and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy, and gang involvement. They have organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They have assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. They have partnered with "GEAR Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to create the FRESH START program which targets (current) Waipahu High School 10th grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9th grade.

They work with 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary for their "Real and Powerful Sessions" educating the students about juvenile laws, substance abuse and illicit activity and help to empower the students to make safer choices as they age.

They will also be instrumental in hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.

They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy and drug free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated professionals and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Gail Kim, RN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing
Leeward Oahu PHN Section
94-275 Mokuola St. Rm. 101
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Feb. 08, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

The Waipahu Community Association was the Weed and Seed coordinating agency for Waipahu until Dec. 2009 when we along with the YMCA felt they could better support the Waipahu program because they were the agency coordinating the Ewa and Palama sites and could oversee the entire program because declining financial support. We have first hand knowledge of the effectiveness of the program. We continue to support the Weed and Seed effort in Waipahu.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Walter Osakoda

WCA V.P. Finance

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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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 an avid supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work 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've partnered with "Gear Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to create the FRESH START program which targets Waipahu High School 9th grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9th grade.

They work with the 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary for their "Real and Powerful Sessions" educating the students about juvenile laws, substance abuse and illicit activity and help to empower the students to make safer choices as they age.

They will also be instrumental in be hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.

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 that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Leeward Oahu Nursing Office
94-275 Mokuola Street Rm 101
Waipahu, HI 96797

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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

Over the past eleven years of managing the Waipahu Town Center, I have seen and experienced much improvement in our Waipahu community as a result of the direct involvement and tireless hours that the Weed and Seed officers have devoted into educating and mentoring our keiki, young adults and parents to seek the right choices in creating better lives for themselves. The Waipahu community will always need the assistance of outreach programs however, Weed and Seed has proven to be a success on its own coat tails amongst the residents and businesses.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC

Agent for Waipahu, LLC



Carol Y. Brack, Executive Vice President

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.
1801 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 800
Tiburon, CA 94920
415/785-5530 FAX 415/789-5564

MERIDIAN PACIFIC
94-050 Farrington Highway, Suite E1-3
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808/677-6700 FAX 808/671-2427

www.meridianpacific.com

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Investment Bankers
Asset Managers

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

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I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

It has been my experience that the officers of the Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach areas have consistently demonstrated their professionalism, dedication and commitment to working collaboratively with our communities to improve the health and safety for everyone. Their focus on prevention are commendable and most importantly, appropriate as we all know how important it is to start working with children at a young age to produce responsible citizens. Their work with the elementary, intermediate and high school students are examples of excellent upstream interventions to address the prevention of truancy, gang involvement, and substance abuse. They recognize the value of education and how important it is for youth to be educated in order to become gainfully employed rather than resorting to illegal activities to survive and as such, have been partnered with "GEAR Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to work with the FRESH START program targeting (current) Waipahu High School 10th grade students who are either about to fail or have repeated 9th grade. Their work with the 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary with the "Real and Powerful Sessions" provides important education regarding juvenile laws, substance abuse and illegal activities.

Their strong presence in the Waipahu community to assist with creating neighborhood security watches in at-risk neighborhoods have provided the support residents need to empower themselves to report any illegal activities. This helps residents to feel safe in their homes. In addition, they will be hosting a first meeting in Waipahu to look at how community can support the state and federal governments regarding prison re-entry into the community.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Carol Kurasaki, RN PHN
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing
Leeward Oahu PHN Section
94-275 Mokuōla St. Rm. 101
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2012, 2:00p.m. in Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 H.D. 1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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.

The Weed and Seed program has provided Ilima Intermediate School with additional resources that otherwise would not be available. They have always been willing to help us with various things, the most recent being chaperones for our afterschool social. While providing their assistance in these activities, they were constantly building relationships with the adults on campus and more importantly, the students here at our school. These positive relationships can go a long way in the development of our young adolescents in helping them to stay on the right path.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Ing
Student Activities Coordinator
Ilima Intermediate School
808.687.9325

2/9/2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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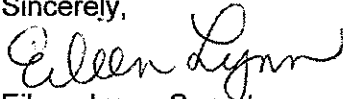
As the Secretary of the Ewa Weed & Seed Committee, I have witnessed many success stories within the Ewa Beach area because of the Ewa Weed & Seed Coordinator, Officers and community volunteers working together to make Ewa Beach a safer place to live and dwell. Since Ewa Weed & Seed's inception in 2002, I have witnessed parks being taken back by community residents from drug dealers. I've seen truants return to attending school, graffiti clean ups, community clean ups, food bank distribution to our needy seniors, major drug busts and the positive interaction between the Officers and the youth of our community.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,



Eileen Lynn, Secretary
Ewa Weed & Seed Committee
91-1139 Hanakahi Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 689-3219
lynn025@hawaii.rr.com

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
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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 Department of Health Public Health Nurse and a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition. I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen their diligent efforts to improve the Waipahu community. The Weed and Seed officers and site coordinator work actively with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They have assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. Weed and Seed also organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy and drug free activities for the residents of Waipahu. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Weed and Seed team. I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Jan Nishihira, RN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing
Leeward Oahu PHN Section
94-275 Mokuola St. Rm. 101
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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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 an administrator at James Campbell High School I see the partnership with Weed and Seed producing healthy relationships and outlets for students, reducing truancy, reducing DOE Chapter 19 violations of student misconduct which includes drug-related and violent offenses. Be it through advice, information, or physical assistance, our Weed and Seed program officers are always available to help us. Recent assistance at our home athletic events has sent a positive message to our school community which has resulted in more safe and enjoyable after school/evening activities.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 2773 H.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jamie M. Dela Cruz, Vice Principal

James Campbell High School