

HB 2773, HD3

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 HD 3 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 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 HD 3.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAIPAHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
94-465 Waipahu Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016

I am appealing for your support HB 2773 HD 3 to sustain the Weed and Seed program 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 crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

Waipahu Elementary School's support for Weed & Seed Waipahu is a direct result of the valuable service every member of the organization provides to not only our school, but also the entire Waipahu community. Weed & Seed Waipahu and the YMCA of Honolulu have partnered with our school in a variety of ways to support our students and families. The police officers and site coordinator assist us with our Drug Free parade through the community, they have done presentations to parents and families, and have also contributed to prevention efforts by mentoring our 6th grade students in rap sessions.

Beyond those significant efforts developed through our school partnership, I personally support and believe in the direction and goals of the Weed & Seed program. Coordination of efforts and leveraging of resources has allowed progress to occur in shaping a prideful and more resourceful Waipahu community. Because of that, I do participate in and support Weed & Seed activities whenever possible, even if these events are not school related.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which 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 3.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Taga
Principal



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – LEEWARD DISTRICT
ILIMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
91-884 FORT WEAVER ROAD
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773-HD3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773-HD3 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 helped to develop a positive climate within our school community. The police officers play an important role as they are able to develop positive relationships with our youth. This changing of the collective mindset is essential in our efforts to transform Ewa into a thriving community that values collaboration and mutual respect for everyone. Through the many activities they take part in (dances, refereeing for intramural sports, etc.) students are able to see them in a very different light and begin to view them as a supportive rather than adversarial.

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-HD3.

Sincerely,
Jon Henry Lee


Principal
Ilima Intermediate



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

March 13, 2012

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

Re: HB2773HD3 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB 2773HD3 proposes to 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 General Funds for the program.

DLIR opposes creating a new program within the department under OCS. However, the department does support OCS administering a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the program, as they have for a number of years. The department suggests that any appropriation in the proposal should also cover the administrative costs. Lastly, the DLIR's support of the proposal is contingent upon its passage not displacing the funding priorities of the administration.

II. CURRENT LAW

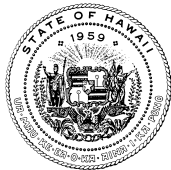
Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to chapter 42F. A permanent program does not exist.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

DLIR supports and shares OCS's concerns with the measure as currently drafted. The reduction of crime and drug use is both outside the scope of OCS and the prevention of crime is outside the mission of DLIR. The measure as currently worded would task OCS with providing direct services, which would require significantly more resources including staff. The department notes that under HRS Chapter 371K, OCS's mission is to contract out services to other entities to provide services and then provide administrative support and oversight.

In addition, the proposal establishes a new program within DLIR to maintain and expand the current program, which the department opposes. OCS has administered a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the Weed and Seed Program for a number of years. The department notes that the budget for OCS at both the state and federal levels has decreased over the last few budget cycles.

In sum, the department is supportive of OCS administering a Grant-In-Aid for the Weed and Seed program as long as the proposal's passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration.



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: dilir.ocs@hawaii.gov

March 12, 2012

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

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

Testimony for House Bill 2773, HD3-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 an unspecified amount of General Funds for the program. Additionally, the bill would provide a blank 42F grant to the YMCA of Honolulu for the program.

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

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.

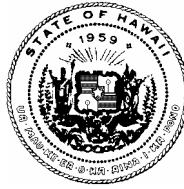
III. COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL

Given our previous testimony we will comment on the legislation in its current form. In general, OCS is supportive of the program. As we have iterated before, the Weed and Seed program is a true community-building and empowerment program, allowing communities to take charge of their neighborhoods through collective strength and shared ideals.

We are confident that as a State agency, we have the knowledge and expertise to run any program within our mandate the Legislature seeks to fund or to create. However, the current funding mechanisms cannot continue to coexist moving forward. The co-mingling of a grant and general fund procurement would cause confusion and interfere with our ability to run either version of the program.

As stated in previous testimonies by OCS, we would also like to ensure whatever program is funded, if any, contains a provision for the recovery of our administrative costs, and does not interfere with the priorities of the Executive Supplemental Budget.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

March 13, 2012

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

Subject: **H.B. 2773, H.D. 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012; 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2773, H.D. 3 is to establish a weed and seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and provide an unspecified appropriation for the program.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of H.B. 2773, H.D. 3 to help with a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

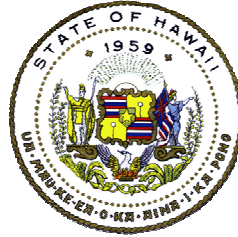
The existing Weed and Seed Honolulu is currently under the umbrella of the YMCA. The Weed and Seed is involved with community revitalization in Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kalihi-Palama. At the request of the Governor's Office, the Weed and Seed was asked to rejuvenate its program at the Mayor Wright Homes (MWH). The DHS helped coordinate with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Department of Public Safety, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Attorney's Office, and Weed and Seed to facilitate the return of the Weed and Seed to MWH. 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 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 has a track record of success in all the communities that it has been involved with. The DHS supports its continued existence, the intent of this measure, but takes no position as to where Weed and Seed should be housed and defers to the earlier testimony each submitted by the Office of Community Service and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It is our understanding that the Honolulu Weed and Seed has submitted a Grants-in-Aid application for the upcoming fiscal year. We leave it to the Committee's judgment as to whether this will be the more appropriate vehicle to accomplish the purpose of the bill, namely the continued support for the existence of the Honolulu Weed and Seed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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 HD3
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

by

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) appreciates the intent of House Bill 2773 HD3 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.

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016**

I am appealing for your support HB 2773 HD 3 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.

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 HD 3.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC,

Agent for Waipahu, LLC



Carol Y. Brack
Executive Vice President

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

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

www.meridianpacificltd.com

REAL ESTATE

Lenders
Mortgage Bankers
Fund Advisors

Principals/Developers
Investment Bankers
Asset Managers

3/12/2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:
Re: HB 2773-HD3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

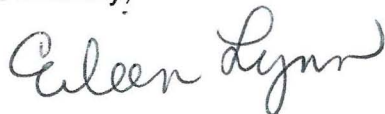
I am appealing for your support of HB 2773-HD3 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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. Truants return to attending school, graffiti clean ups, community clean ups, food bank distributions to our needy seniors, major drug busts and the positive interaction between the officers and the youth of our community.

Weed & 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-HD3.

Sincerely,



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

March 12, 2012



Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Friends for Boys & Girls Club
Hale Pono Ewa Beach
Clubhouse**
91-884 Fort Weaver Rd. Suite A
Ewa Beach HI 96706
Tel: 808.689.4182
Fax: 808.689.0625
www.bgch.com

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB 2773-HD3 – Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I am appealing for your support of HB 2772-HD3 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 is with great importance we retain Weed and Seed. Throughout the years they have worked with over hundreds of youth and families in the community, through positive reinforcement in making our community safe. To name a few, Citizen Patrol for youth, mentoring of youth through the Health 2 Ocean program, Jr. Bowling, Jr. Golf Program for youth, intramurals at the middle schools, culinary arts program for high school students and more.

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-HD3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frances Rivero".

Frances Rivero,
Director

Officers
Jamie Giambrone
President
Georgette Stevens
Vice President
Chezlani Lee
Secretary
Walter Enriques
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Shane Duhon
Will Espero
Lloyd Haraguchi
Cynthia Hermosura
Eileen Hirota
Raedeen Itamoto
Eileen Lynn
James Moylan
Cheryl Nekota
Denise Oliveira
Arthur Pelkaus
Tawny Porter
Richard Quiamzon
Carina Tagupa
Naomi Takamori
Sharene Tam
Lee Tokuhara
Eric Wong
Stacey Yonamine

Clubhouse Director
Frances Rivero
Chief Professional Officer
Tim Motts



March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016**

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 HD 3 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 to that helped develop the ‘Olelo Waianae Community Media Center for 5 years. I have witnessed HPDs community efforts as enforcement having success when they arrive for a crisis. However the Weed & Seed Officers have created a unique presence in the community and developed a deep relationship with organizations, youth, families and businesses. The Weed & Seed Officers and program have created a sense of security that stems from being present, involved and caring for the people & community they serve. The Weed & Seed Officers are very different from regular HPD Officers. The Weed & Seed Officers have created a relationship that starts with very young youth that help develop a level of respect for authority, law and order. Their presence imbedded 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 & 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 HD 3.

Sincerely,

James “Sparky” Rodrigues
94-455 Farrington Hwy.
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
808-671-3950 office
808-352-0059 cel

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016

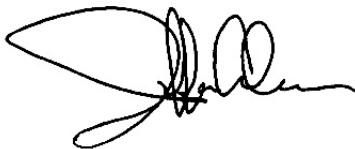
I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 HD 3 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses have helped reduce violent 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 community's 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 HD 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Alameida', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey Alameida, CFP
Executive Director
Empower Oahu

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

& Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773-HD3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773-HD3 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. Not only do they focus on reducing bad influences but this program bridges a gap that unites multiple generations, promoting a positive life style, healthy community and values of ohana and aloha.

It 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-HD3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Enanoria". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Lisa Enanoria (West Oahu Resident)

Community Relations Coordinator

Haseko Development Inc.

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: Tuesday March 13, 2012

Time: 10:15am

Place: Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB2773, HD3 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

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 in strong support of HB2773, HD3.

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.

Weed and Seed on a National level was a victim of budget cuts when the Department of Justice decided to cut grant programs. Weed and Seed was one the oldest, being around since the Bush I administration. In Hawaii, we received the permission from the DOJ to continue with the program, including using the name and logo, recognizing that W&S in Hawaii is robust and supported by the community.

Since it is no longer a program from the Dept of Justice, there are no restrictions, such as three sites per county. Therefore, we have received numerous requests from communities across the state asking for assistance. They would like to learn the strategies that Weed and Seed has demonstrated to be successful.

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 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.

Since there are no longer 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 safe and decent housing for our families in Public Housing. We will need the support of the Legislature to do this.

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

The YMCA of Honolulu has been the fiscal agent and employer of the Weed and Seed staff for 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 grant-in-aid, is preferable to establishing Weed and Seed as a program within the Dept of Labor.

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 from immigrant families.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Eric Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Please Support HB 2773-HD3 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Date: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:56:03 AM

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773-HD3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

March 12, 2012

Decision Hearing on Tuesday, March 13, 2012

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773-HD3 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-

HD3; we cannot afford to let crime takes its place in our communities.

Sincerely,

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

March 11, 2012

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the JDL Committee:

**Re: HB 2773 HD 3 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 10:15am in Room 016**

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 HD 3 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 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 HD 3.

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN
State of Hawaii
Department of Health
Public Health Nursing Branch
Leeward Oahu Nursing Office
94-275 Mokuola Street Rm 101
Waipahu, HI 9679