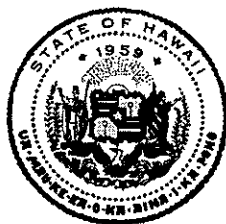


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Blvd. 4<sup>th</sup> 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 SENATE BILL 2261  
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
by  
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15 PM  
State Capitol, Room 325

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Bill 2261 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.

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

March 21, 2012

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

Subject: **S.B. 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2261 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 SB 2261 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 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 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.



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](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685  
Email: [dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov)

March 20, 2012

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

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
Time: 2:15 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

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

**Testimony for Senate Bill 2261-Relating to the Weed and Seed Program**

**POSITION:** Support w/Comments

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The current proposal, SB 2261, would create a Weed and Seed program in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) as well as create a new requirement for a report to the Legislature to be submitted by the Department. The bill would also appropriate funds for the measure.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Currently, OCS administers the Weed and Seed Program as a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to Chapter 42F.

**III. SENATE BILL**

OCS has, in previous testimony, iterated our support of the program in general terms. We continue to support measures like the current proposal as the Weed and Seed program has shown the ability to organize and coordinate diverse sectors of the community.

With regard to this specific proposed legislation, we believe the House Bill has a better grasp of the issues inherent in administering any new program. For example, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is mentioned as the implementing agency for the program. The

Weed and Seed program would, most likely, fall outside the mission of the Department as stated in HRS, Chapter 26-20.

As stated when testifying on the House measure, certain implementation issues need to be addressed, such as funding source, codification, funding amount, statewide implementation, procurement, and other such details. None of these issues will hinder the implementation of the program, should the Legislature wish to fund it, however the program will be affected by each decision made. OCS is prepared to discuss any such program format with the committee chairs to ensure everyone is informed as to the repercussions of any legislative preferences.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

March 21, 2012

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

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
Time: 2:15 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

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

**Re: S.B. No. 2261 Relating to the Weed and Seed Program**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

SB2261 creates a Weed and Seed program in the Office of Community Services (OCS), which is attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for administrative purposes. The measure appropriates funds and requires a report to the legislature from the department.

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 SENATE 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

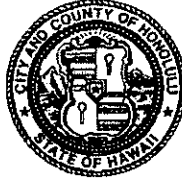
prevention of crime is outside the mission of DLIR. The measure as currently worded would task OCS with providing direct services, which would require significantly more resources including staff. The department notes that under HRS Chapter 371K, OCS's mission is to contract out services to other entities 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO  
MARIE A. MCCAULEY  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE

WC-MK

March 21, 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: Senate Bill No. 2261 (HSCR 1064-12), Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

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

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2261 (HSCR1064-12). This bill establishes and provides funding for a Weed and Seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AC Paul Meyer" or similar, written over the name of the Major.

FOR WILLIAM R. CHUR, Major

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoa", written over the name and title of the Chief of Police.

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police



March 20, 2012

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

Dear Chair Keith -Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: SB 2261 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 pm in Room 325

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 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.


Through the years Weed and Seed has been very instrumental to the Ewa Beach community, its youth family and businesses. My years of involvement with the Weed and Seed's initiative, I've witness the changes within our community; as less crime, and truancy dwindles each year, graffiti has been less few and the community has been safer for our youth, family and business.

Their involvement with various programs and projects should be recognized as one of the leading programs in the state. Officer's involvement with youth in the capacity of mentoring, being positive role models for youth that provides various programs within the school system and community as intramurals, culinary arts Jr. bowling, Jr. Golf, Health to Ocean (H2)) programs, that gives youth an alternative to positive programs than the streets. In support of community involvement and partnership, the citizen patrol program with both youth and adults have been on - going for over six years, graffiti paint outs to help beautify our community, and various community projects that secures and reinforces safety concerns and issues community may have.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. It is with great importance they continue the efforts in keeping our community safe and our youth out of harm's way.

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 SB 2261.

Sincerely,  
  
Frances Rivero  
Director- Hale Pono Clubhouse



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](http://www.bgch.com)

#### Officers

Jamie Giambrone  
President  
Georgette Stevens  
Vice President  
Chezlani Lee  
Secretary  
Walter Enriquez  
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



**Great Futures Starts Here.**



**HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-**

**Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB2261 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 SB2261. Thank you for your support and consideration

Sincerely,

Sharene Saito Tam  
Vice President  
Haseko Development, Inc.

# MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC,

Agent for Waipahu, LLC

  
Carol Y. Brack  
Executive Vice President

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.  
1601 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 600  
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](http://www.meridianpacificltd.com)

REAL ESTATE

Lenders  
Mortgage Bankers  
Fund Advisors

Principals/Developers  
Investment Bankers  
Asset Managers



**Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help  
Church**

91-1004 North Road, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Tel: (808)689-8681 • Fax: (808)689-1954

Web site: [www.olphewabeach.org](http://www.olphewabeach.org) • Email: [olph@rcchawaii.org](mailto:olph@rcchawaii.org)

---

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-  
Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB2261 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 a pastor here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Ewa Beach for the past eight years, I have the opportunity to meet the fine youth and adults in the community. Many have moved off-island for college and job opportunities, and many have returned to Ewa Beach and made it their home. I understand why.

Ewa Beach has a sense of belonging; a safe haven where neighbors become more than friends – they become family. The Weed & Seed Program continues to be a vital part in creating and sustaining this environment for not only its residences, but also the businesses in the area as well.

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 SB2261.

Sincerely,

Rev. Scott Bush  
Pastor

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



March 21, 2012

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Members  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Agaran and Committee Members:

**RE: S.B. 2261 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012; 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

I am Debbie Luning, an employee of Gentry Homes and a member of the Ewa Weed and Seed Steering Committee. I am testifying in strong support of S.B. 2261, an appropriation measure to sustain the Weed and Seed program in communities on Oahu

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

I would like to suggest two amendments to the bill:

- 1) page one, paragraph 1 – the year "1992" should be changed to "1991.
- 2) page 3, SECTION 3 - We would like to request that \$336,000 be appropriated for this program for FY 2012-2013.

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

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

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



**HAWAII'S  
MOST WANTED**  
Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley  
Owner

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

## Empower O`ahu

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

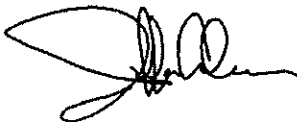
I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses have helped reduce 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.

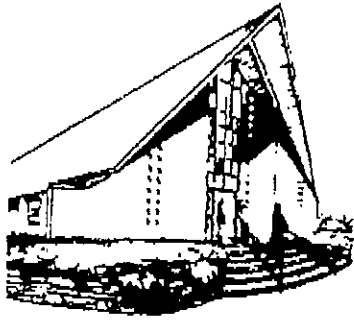
Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource whose strategy needs to be continued. Your support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community, I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Alameida, CFP  
Executive Director  
Empower Oahu



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

John Vaughn, Pastor

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

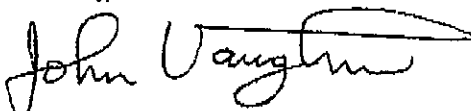
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,

  
Pastor John Vaughn





**CEDAR**  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

P.O. Box 201429, Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 [www.cedaraog.com](http://www.cedaraog.com)

Sr Pastor: Jimmy Yamada

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

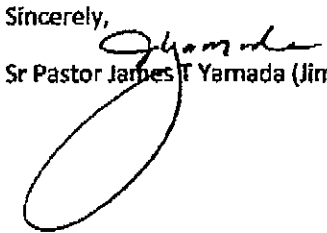
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

In the very recent past, Cedar Assembly of God has partnered with Weed & Seed to address some of the issues in the Kuhio Park Terrace area. We are currently working on connecting with the residents in the community to find out about the issues that are important to them, and the solutions that they can be a part of. Members of our church were involved in planning and implementing a Kalihi Community Forum on February 29, 2012.

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 SB 2261 SSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,

  
Sr Pastor James T Yamada (Jimmy Yamada)



**PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER**

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 and drug-related crimes in my community. Our organization Pacific Gateway Center was one of the collaborating organizations of Weed and Seed and was energized to be selected for the very first Weed and Seed site. The drastic drop in crime was visible and far reaching.

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 important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR1064-12.

Sincerely,

Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

83 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 – TEL (808) 851-7010 – FAX (808) 851-7019

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE IMMIGRANT CENTER

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-**

**Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am writing to ask for your support of SB2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

I participate as a volunteer in most of Ewa Weed & Seed's community service projects: Ohana Food Distribution, Neighborhood Kokua, adopt a bus stop – Ft. Weaver Rd. & Kuhina St., and Drive Safe 4 Ewa, along with HPD District 8 Community Policing projects and programs.

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 have seen the improvement in my community: much less graffiti than other more affluent communities, after school and other programs for our school aged children, community networking and partnering, and community spirit and pride.

Our Site Coordinator Gale Braceros and the Ewa Weed & Seed Program have been a blessing to our community. Ms. Braceros brought many of us together from different sectors in Ewa Beach including: developers, the Campbell Complex DOE schools, HPD, other City & County agencies, churches, Boys and Girls Club Hale Pono Clubhouse, and other community servants.

Together we have cleaned up our community, served our economically disadvantaged youth and elderly, and worked to self-police our community and maintain its wellness.

Weed and Seed is important to our community. Please support SB2261.

Sincerely,

Russell Henna

Calvary Chapel West Oahu, Ho'omālama Ministry

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

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: Wednesday March 21, 2012

Time: 2:15 pm

Place: Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**RE: SB2261 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 SB2261

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.

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-**

**Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am humbly requesting your support of SB2261 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.

Since the Ewa Beach/Ewa Weed and Seed program took root in our community there is a sense of value, family and pride that thrives amongst young and old alike. More and more people taking the time out to get active and actually call their phone tree and/or call 911 when they see crime or suspect something is not right. Parks are cleaner, streets are safer and illegal activity is no longer running rapid in our streets. The illegal activities are now less visible, but it still exists and I am afraid that if we do not have this type of program we will lose the progress and momentum we have gained since 2006.

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 SB2261.

Sincerely,

Tesha H. Malama

40 year resident of Ewa Beach

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

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

SB 2261

**SB 2261**

Chris Lewis [clewis@villagesofkapolei.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:42 PM

**To:** JUDtestimony

---

3/20/12

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

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-**

**Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB2261 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 works. As someone who works with children on a regular basis I have seen their programs change lives.

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 SB2261.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lewis



March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Aragan, Vice Chair Rhodes, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM-  
Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB2261 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 an Ewa Beach resident my entire life, I am thankful to the Weed & Seed program for having a presence in the 96706 community. Their support in creating and sustaining a safe environment for Ewa's residence, visitors and businesses continue to be a success. I am very grateful for their hard work and dedication.

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 SB2261.

Sincerely,



Denise Oliveira  
Ewa Beach Resident

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,

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

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

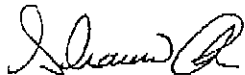
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Afa 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.

Being a resident of Kamehameha Homes and a faculty of Kalakaua Middle School I have seen and experienced the impact of the Weed & Seed in my community and school. Weed & Seed police officers regularly participate in functions to educate our students and parents. A citizen's patrol regularly walks our streets to document and report crime weekly. The response by Weed & Seed to community issues and concerns continues to be appreciated.

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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



Lehua Lum  
Resident  
Kamehameha Homes

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 a resident of Kaahumanu Homes I see Weed & Seed working in our community and makes a difference. Weed & Seed helped us with our Christmas Celebration that we could give our kids goody bags and a nice time. The Kaahumanu Homes Citizen's Patrol walks every week to make our place safe. On behalf of our board, we want Weed & Seed to stay.

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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



Rose Ayala-Switzer  
Resident  
Tenant Association President  
Kaahumanu Homes

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. 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: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- They work with the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

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



March 20, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. 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 on Judiciary

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:15pm in Conference Room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1064-12.

Sincerely,

*Lisa T. Ynigues*

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

3/21/12

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

Dear Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Vice Chair Karl Rhodes and Members of the Committee:

**Re: SB 2261 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: March 21, 2012, 2:15 p.m., room 325**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

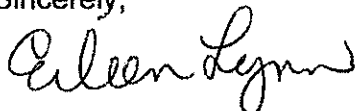
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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.

Sincerely,



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