

**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 27, 2012

To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair,  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair; and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012  
Time: 3:30 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 308, 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 Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. DLIR strongly opposes creating a new program within the department. The department notes that it continues to struggle to meet the responsibilities of its core programs due to the recent budget constraints.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

Currently, the Office of Community Services 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 has serious concerns with the measure as currently drafted. The reduction of crime and drug use and the prevention of crime are outside the mission of DLIR. OCS has administered a chapter 42F Grant-in-Aid for the Weed and Seed Program for a number of years. In summary, the department opposes establishing a new program in the DLIR, but 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](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685  
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March 27, 2012

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, 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 unspecified 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.

The current bill has moved through the entire hearing process without amendment. This being the case you most likely know without some sort of defect the bill will be enrolled to the governor if passed upon Third Reading.

As is, the bill has the current areas which are cause for concern to OCS. First, there is no appropriation figure mentioned. Passing the measure without an appropriation would basically kill the program, as the DLIR is already on Department wide budgetary restrictions.

Secondly, the DLIR statute is mentioned for revision for the program. Although OCS is not qualified to render an opinion on constitutionality or statutory fit between programs and Departmental missions, the four key elements of the Weed and Seed program as stated in the bill are:

- “(1) Law enforcement;
- (2) Community policing;
- (3) Prevention, intervention, and treatment programs; and
- (4) Neighborhood restoration.”

None of these purposes, in our view, align with the current purposes of the DLIR as stated in Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 26-20. OCS, as an attached agency, is able to accommodate the program due to the low-income population included in each service area. The low-income population aligns with our mission, which is distinct from the DLIR.

Thirdly, OCS would like to make a general statement about reporting requirements. Agencies statewide are required to report regarding various issues. OCS, if named the expending agency, would prefer a consolidated report with each Legislative mandate included rather than 6 piecemeal reports.

Finally, the House version of the bill is moving with some amendments regarding funding mechanism, these funding strategies should be considered when developing the final format of the program headed into conference committee.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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 28, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, 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.

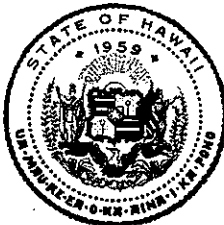
The existing Weed and Seed Honolulu is currently under the umbrella of the YMCA. The Weed and Seed is involved with community revitalization in Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kalihi-Palama. At the request of the Governor's Office, the Weed and Seed was asked to rejuvenate its program at the Mayor Wright Homes (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.

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 Finance  
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 28, 2012; 3:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

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.

Committee on Finance  
Rep Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Rep Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: Wednesday March 28, 2012

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Room 308, 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.

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.





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Ewa Makai Middle School**  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, Hawai'i 96706

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

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

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.

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

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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro

Principal, Ewa Makai Middle School

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT



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

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30pm in Conference Room 308

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalili-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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Taga".

Paul S. Taga  
Principal

## MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
~~The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair~~  
 & Members of the House Committee on Finance  
 State Capitol  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 -- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30pm in Conference Room 308**

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 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 1269-12.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC

Agent for Waipahu, LLC

  
 Carol Y. Brack  
 Executive Vice President

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.  
 1031 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 800  
 Tiburon, CA 94920  
 415/729-5530 fax: 415/729-5564

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

[www.meridianpacific.com](http://www.meridianpacific.com)

REAL ESTATE      Lenders      Principals/Developers  
 Mortgage Bankers      Investment Bankers  
 Fund Advisors      Asset Managers



**HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee:

RE: SB 2261 – Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

I am appealing for your support SB 2261 SSCR 2727 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.

The Weed and Seed Strategy has been and continues to be a major factor in improving the health and safety of my community. 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 SB 2261 SSCR 2727. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Mahalo,

Lisa Enanoria  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Haseko Development, Inc.



**HAWAII'S  
MOST WANTED**

Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 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.

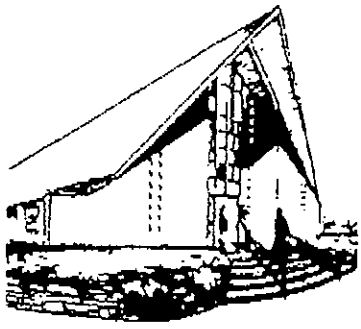
Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong,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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley  
Owner

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



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

John Vaughn, Pastor

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

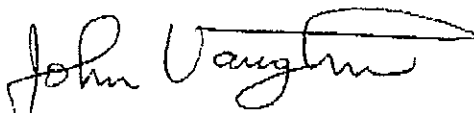
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 1269-12.

Sincerely,

  
Pastor John Vaughn

**PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER**

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 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 HSCR1269-12.

Sincerely,

Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



**CEDAR**  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sr Pastor: Jimmy Yamada

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

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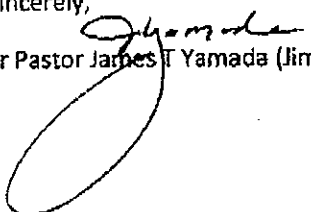
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 1269-12.

Sincerely,

  
Sr Pastor James T Yamada (Jimmy Yamada)



THE GENTRY COMPANIES



March 28, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members:

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012; 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra M. A. Luning". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



March 28, 2012

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members:

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012; 3:30 p.m.  
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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



# Kekaulike Courtyards



1016 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Ph. (808) 545-2993

Fax (808) 545-3654

March 28, 2012

*FAX  
586-6001*

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee

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.

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 SB 2261; we cannot afford to let crime takes its place in our communities.

Sincerely,

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

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the House Finance Committee:

**RE: - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

Hearing: S.B. 2261, Wednesday, 3/28, at 3:30 p.m. Room 308

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.

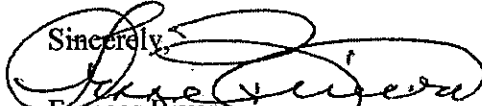
Through the years Weed and Seed has been very instrumental to the Ewa Beach community, its youth family and businesses. My years of involvement with the Weed and Seed's initiative, I've witness the changes within our community; as less crime, and truancy dwindles each year, graffiti has been less few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

## Empower O`ahu

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

**Re: SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30pm in Conference Room 308**

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 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 1269-12.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Alameida, CFP  
Executive Director  
Empower Oahu

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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 1269-12.

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

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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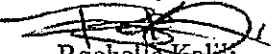
As a parent of 6 children and 2 grandchildren living in Waipahu, my first priority is the safety of my family. Unfortunately, my home of 19 years, Waipahu, has the stigma of being a bad place to live. While I acknowledge that we have criminal and drug issues, I also know that Waipahu is a safer place to live because of Weed and Seed. Through Weed and Seed, we have a team of officers who are designated to work hand in hand with the community to solve problems. In fact, just last year, they arrested some people for prostitution near where I live.

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

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource 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 1269-12.

Sincerely,

  
Rochelle Kalini  
Resident of Waipahu  
94-207 Waipahu Street #196  
Waipahu HI 96797  
861-6574

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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- 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 1269-12.

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 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee

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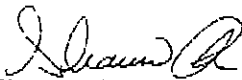
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 1269-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

I had the good fortune of being the first Weed and Seed Supervisor in Hawaii and the City of Honolulu. I've seen the good work it has done and how businesses and residents have come together to make the communities safe to live in.

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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,



John Kauwenaole, Sergeant Retired  
Honolulu Police Department

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March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Weed & Seed has 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 1269-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
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State Capitol  
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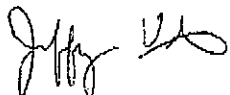
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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

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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 27, 2012

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The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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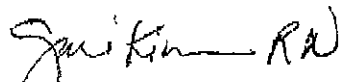
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Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,



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

March 27, 2012

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The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
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State Capitol  
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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 1269-12.

Sincerely,



Lehua Lum  
Resident  
Kamehameha Homes

March 27, 2012

The Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair  
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The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

As 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 1269-12.

Sincerely,



Rose Ayala-Switzer  
Resident  
Tenant Association President  
Kaahumanu Homes

March 27, 2012

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The Honorable Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair  
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State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

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

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

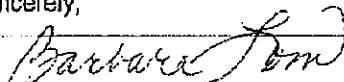
Another program offered by Weed & Seed in Waipahu is Fresh Start which in partnership with Waipahu High School and Gear Up, targets youth that are on track for failure. Weed and Seed conducts workshops and supports educational excursions that teach students and parents skills in communication, problem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

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

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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support of SB 2261 HSCR 1269-12.

Sincerely,



---

Barbara Tom, Retiree and Citizen  
98-1854 Milinolia Place  
Aiea, HI 96701



## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:23 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** stam@haseko.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2261 on 3/28/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/28/2012 3:30:00 PM SB2261

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sharene Saito Tam  
Organization: Haseko Development, Inc.  
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Submitted on: 3/27/2012

### Comments:

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair House Committee on Finance State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813 &#160; Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the House Finance  
Committee,

I'd like to express my strong support for SB2261 regarding the Weed and Seed program.

I have seen firsthand how effective Weed and Seed has been in reducing truancy in Ewa Beach,  
and the overall integral approach the program has to reducing crime in our community.

It is a grassroots effort working in partnership with area businesses, residents and police  
officers that is making a real difference throughout our community, and Weed and Seed plays a  
vital organizational role in bringing everyone together to do good for our community.

Please vote to approve SB 2261 and show your support for Weed and Seed.

Mahalo,

Sharene Saito Tam  
Vice President  
Haseko Development, Inc.