

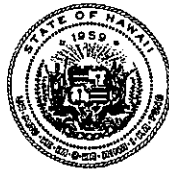
SB 2261

RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Description:

Establishes the weed and seed program under the department of labor and industrial relations. Makes appropriation

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MILA KA'AHANUI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

January 30, 2012

To: The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, 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. HOUSE BILL

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

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

As the prevention of crime is outside the mission of DLIR, OCS would most likely be tasked with the implementation of this program. With that in mind, we have the following concerns:

1) The three main functions of the program, as stated in the bill, are to “Create, initiate, implement, and support responsible community-based activities, projects, and services that help reduce crime and drug use in neighborhoods; Engage members of the community to encourage the development and maintenance of economic and social well-being; and Teach and model collaborative efforts that focus on sustainable results.” We note that OCS is not a direct service agency and we believe it was never intended to take on such a role. Our mission, under HRS Chapter 371K, is to contract out for non-profit and other agencies to provide such services, while we provide administrative support, planning, and administrative oversight over the service providers for these programs. As currently worded, this bill may task OCS with providing direct services, which would require much more staff and resources. We would prefer language which allows us to contract out for such services.

2) Some program expenses in the past were for police officers, on overtime, that assist and train persons in the activities of community policing. We would like an opportunity to confer with the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers, the Counties, and the Department of Human Resources Development in order to ensure there are no particular roadblocks to funding such activities with State funds.

3) As currently worded, it seems OCS would be the agency to coordinate and run the “activities, projects, and services.” OCS is thoroughly supportive of the collaborative model and would appreciate an opportunity to be such a coordinating agency. However, our mandate requires there be a low-income or disadvantaged element to each population we serve. Currently, the reduction of crime and drug use is outside of our scope.

4) As stated in previous conversations regarding the use of General funds for programmatic purposes, any such program funded by the General Fund is subject to the Procurement Code. In any procurement, OCS cannot guarantee the same service areas and providers who in the past have administered this program will be selected to provide these services again.

5) Finally, this bill may have a fiscal impact. OCS will defer to the Governor’s Office and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations with regard to the overall funding priorities of the proposed budget.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

January 31, 2012 2:45 P.M.
Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
Senate Bill 2261
Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Senate Bill 2261, relating to the Weed and Seed Program.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports enactment of the measure, which would permanently re-establish the Weed and Seed program locally with concurrent fund appropriation within the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Our agency's experience with the strategic program in the past has been favorable and positive, and we are in full support of the re-enactment of the program. In fact, we have recently executed a memorandum of agreement with the current Weed and Seed leadership to see a renewal of the program at Mayor Wright Homes.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the joint hearing of the Senate Committees with the agency's position regarding S.B. 2261. We respectfully request the Committees to pass this measure favorably, and we thank you very much for your dedicated support.

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of JDL
& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45pm in Room 224

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.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
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& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45pm in Room 224**

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.

- I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed, because I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They've organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They've assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly. They've partnered with "Gear Up Waipahu" and New Hope Leeward to create the FRESH START program which targets Waipahu High School 9th grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9th grade.
- They work with the 6th graders at Waipahu Elementary for their "Real and Powerful Sessions" educating the students about juvenile laws, substance abuse and illicit activity and help to empower the students to make safer choices as they age.
- They will also be instrumental in be hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.
- They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy, drug-free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated professionals to improve Waipahu and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities. Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261.

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

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of JDL
& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Re: SB 2261— RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45 p.m. In Room 224

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.

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

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

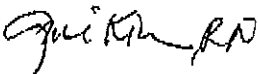
They will also be instrumental in hosting the first meeting in Waipahu to discuss how the community can support the state and federal government concerning prison re-entry into the community.

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 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 continue. 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,



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

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of JDL
& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45pm in Room 224

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.

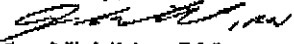
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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, drug-free activities for the residents of Waipahu. We are very fortunate to have such a 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.

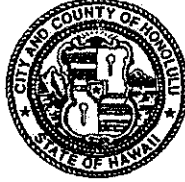
Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261.

Sincerely,


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

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WC-MK

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and
Military Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee and Members:

Re: Senate Bill No. 2261, Relating to the Weed and Seed Program

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

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2261. This bill establishes and appropriates funds 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,

William Chur
WILLIAM R. CHUR, Major

APPROVED:

Louis M. Kealo

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Honolulu , Hawaii 96813

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

Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012; 02:45pm
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

My name is Maile Kanemaru, Director of Honolulu Weed and Seed, and now retired from the YMCA of Honolulu. I have been the Director of Weed and Seed for the past 12 years.

I am testifying in strong support of SB2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed Program.

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

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the designated neighborhoods. It is a robust program, doing substantial good in our communities to improve the quality of life.

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

THE GENTRY COMPANIES



January 31, 2012

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee and Committee Members:

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

Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2011; 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 224, 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



HASEKO

HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

January 30, 2012

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

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

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

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.



HAWAII'S MOST WANTED

Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani
Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro
And Members of Each 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.

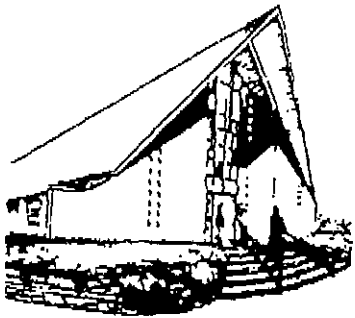
Hawaii's Most Wanted Magazine support Weed & Seed by providing space in its publications free-of-charge. Projects carried out by the community collaborative partners throughout the Weed & Seed sites are models of crime prevention and reduction successes that can be modeled throughout our State.

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.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Castillo-Barkley
Owner



Kalihi Baptist Church

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

John Vaughn, Pastor

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
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State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro
And Members of Each Committee

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

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

Weed & Seed has been 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.

Sincerely,


Pastor John Vaughn

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani
Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro
And Members of Each 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.

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.

Sincerely,



Dolores Mollring
Resident
Downtown Citizens Patrol Block Captain

[Redacted] 07

Honorable [Redacted]

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of JDL
& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45pm in Room 224

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 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.

Sincerely,


Rochelle Kalili
Resident of Waipahu

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero, Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair of PGM
The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of JDL
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair of JDL
& Members of the Senate Committees on PGM and JDL
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

Re: SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM
Joint Hearing: Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 2:45pm in Room 224

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.

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 educated our students on how to be a contributing citizen 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.

Sincerely,

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

286-6321

**TO: SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIRPERSON
SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIRPERSON
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIRPERSON
SENATOR MAILE SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIRPERSON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**SUPPORT LETTERS FOR:
SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

27 pages

To Legislators,

hello, I attend Ilima intermediate and I am apart of the student body government class, leadership. I am writing this letter to ask if you could fund the weed and seed officers for this coming up school year. I am asking if you could fund them because we need them and there help. Its been about 5 years now since they started working for our school and every year has been the best. They help us with our events such as being referees for basketball and football, Afficiating at ISA, being judges for team cheer-offs, door decorating contests, and singing contests, and chaperoning after school activities. These weed and seed officers really have impacted Ilima and all of the students attending Ilima because they help us when we cant do something alone and we need more help with things, activities, and other stuff that we need extra help on. They affect us because if they arent here to help us with our school activities, we would have to do the jobs ourselves and we really cant do it ourselves because we cant handle the positions they are here to do for us. The relationship this school has with weed and seed officers is that we always look forward to them working for us and there nice and polite to all the students, staff, and us. We are very grateful for them when they are there to help us and work at there best with still a smile on. They treat us nicely and they aren't disrespectful to us whenever there at our school. Even though I havent been here for 5 years to see how they were, I was here since the beginning of 7th grade and throughout all the activities

we've had, they have been there to help us with the extra jobs and they were there to help us whenever we needed them. Without the weed and seed officers, we wouldn't have any extra help and if we don't have them to help us, we might have problems with some activities or we might run into some problems because it would kind of be hard for us to find a replacement or replacements for them because they were such hard workers, they worked at there best, and even if it was really hot outside they'd still come to help us and they'd still smile and do a good job. It means a lot to Ilima, and it means a lot to the student body government class that they were able to help us throughout these 5-years. Without them, activities wouldn't be the same and it wouldn't seem the same without them even if we find a replacement for them. It takes a lot for someone to work in the hot sun for a long period and still have a smile, and that's exactly what they did at ISA. It would mean a lot to Ilima and leadership if you would please take this into concideration. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope you come to the conclusion to pay for the weed and seed officers to come back and help us next school year.

Thank you,

Heighlee Bennett

Heighlee Bennett

January 16, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Ilima Intermediate School Student Government in regards to the Weed and Seed Program at our school. The Student Government would like to request an additional year of funding for this program and the police officers that have been volunteering at Ilima Intermediate.

The police officers through the Weed and Seed program have been volunteering for the past 5 years at our school. It is our request to continue this program with their valued assistance for the 2012-2013 school year.

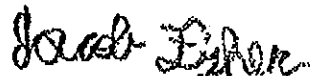
The officer's assistance has allowed our school to have more events for students and makes the running of these events easier. Their volunteering is greatly appreciated by students and faculty at our school and your officer's presence has been essential in our school activities. Some of the activities they've helped with were our dances, talent show competitions, intramural sport events and more. They have done a variety of things during those programs like refereeing, chaperoning, and judging at our programs and events.

These programs at the school are very important to the students of Ilima and the presence of the volunteering officers in the Weed and Seed program is what makes them possible to do. The officer's volunteering has become essential to our programs and the help they give us is extremely valuable for all of us at Ilima Intermediate.

Weed and seed has helped our community as well. The Weed and Seed program has lowered the amount of drug use in our community making it a healthier place for us to be in. Also our community has become a better place to be in without the amount of drugs that were used before the Weed and seed program has come and helped.

Thank you for your assistance in helping keep the Weed and Seed Program at Ilima Intermediate School.

Sincerely,



Jacob M. Fisher
Ilima Student Government

To whom it may concern,

The Weed and Seed program has helped this community a lot, especially Ilima Intermediate School. They have done so many things for us and without their help everything would've been difficult for the Leadership Class. They helped me as a student of Ilima Intermediate by when we have student activities at school they are there watching out for us most specifically for our safety. They have also helped me as part of the community by, they have been there out on the road watching everyone and making sure everyone is driving safely. They are not only watching out for us students but they take their time to watch out for everyone in the community. Being part of the Leadership Class this year, the Weed and Seed program has helped me by, giving us a less stressing time. In Leadership we have a great amount of work to do and they help us get through things easier.

If we don't have them anymore and they can't help our school anymore that'll just be depressing to everyone. Most student in Ilima have become friends with the Weed and Seed officers. Over the past few years everyone became like family and friends. As you can see, they haven't only made friendships with the teachers and staff, they actually were creating friendships with the students. Every now and then when they come, I see students saying, "Hi" and everyone is just smiling. Weed and Seed & Ilima Intermediate School has created a bond called friendship, we would be depressed to see our friends, just not here with us anymore. They have done many things for us at Ilima. They have ref. the basketball and football intramural games, judge our school contests (singing contests, door decorating contest, & cheer contest), chaperoning after school activities (Winter Fair, Spring Fling, etc), and officiating with ISA. Without their help with these stuff, the Leadership Class would have had more things on their hands and it would've been hard to handle. We are just kids, some teenagers. But it's just the beginning for all of us.

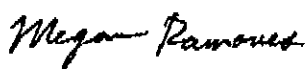
Weed and Seed officers are important to our school and to our community. They've been with us for a long time. Almost half of my life too. All I am asking is if you could fund the Weed and Seed program for us, the students of Ilima Intermediate and the people of the community? It won't be the same without having their help and having them come over. That is because we are used to having them with us, every school year. With all that they have done, we can't just let them go easily. We need your support in order for them to stay. Please, think about it. Mahalo for your time.

Respectfully,

Megan Ramones

7th grade Class Office President

Ilima Intermediate School



January 30, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Shayna deGuzman. I am the Student Body Government Treasure at Ilima Intermediate School. The Weed & Seed Officers have been helping Ilima Intermediate School for about 5 years. They refereed our sports activities like flag football, basketball, our ISA events at our school. They chaperoned our dances for us. They judge contest that we have. The Weed & Seed Officers help us a lot in the past 5 years. It was be disappointing for the students at Ilima Intermediate if the Weed & Seed Officers stop coming to our school and helping. The students and the Weed & Seed Officers get along well and they bond a lot too. Students rather have the Weed & Seed Officers referee games, and judge contest. The students have no problem with the Weed & seed Officers helping their school. By the Officers coming it helps the students build relationships with other people. Students at our school act different when the officers are around. They don't act different just because they are police officers, they act like their talking to there friends and bonding with their friends. The students don't treat the officers any different just because they are Police, they treat them like family.

The Weed & Seed Officers don't only help the school they help us Leadership students. We are responsible for student activities. By the Officers and helping we don't have to worry about them doing the wrong job because the Weed & Seed Officers know what there doing. Whenever the Weed & Seed Officers are around to help everything goes smooth and things get done better. Leadership students enjoy having the Weed & Seed Officers too. We enjoy seeing them around, talking to students & talking to us. Every time an event comes up some asks if the Weed & Seed Officers are coming.

To whom it may concern, I'm asking if you can fund the Weed & Seed Officers so that they can keep coming to Ilima Intermediate School and to help us. We enjoy having them, & the students enjoy seeing them. Thank you for time and your support.

Sincerely,



Shayna deGuzman
Student Body Government Treasure

To whom it may concern,

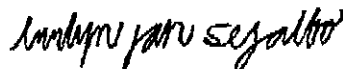
For the past few years officers from the weed and seed program have been helping our school Ilima Intermediate with all the activities and things that we do. Some things they do for us are, judge. They help to judge for the contests we have. We have contests like door decorating contests in December. Also, singing contests. Another activity they help us in is after school activities. Like welcome dance. In our welcome dance they help by chaperoning us. Lastly, they help with our sports activities. Some sport activities we hold are ISA and Intramural sports. ISA is when we have many different schools come over to our campus and they play sports like basketball. Intramural sports are when our school gets to play different kinds of sports like soccer, and flag football during our advisory times. The way the officers from the weed and seed program help us in our sports is they referee our games. With them in our sports it's one hundred times more entertaining because they are so cool and funny. Those are some of the things they help us in.

The officers from the Weed and Seed program have built a really strong relationship with our leadership class and our school. With them they make everything so much easier. For example our Intramural sports. If they weren't there to help us and to help to referee then it would be so much more complicated for our leadership class. That's because then we would have to spend so much more time looking for another referee professional enough to handle the sports we have. If not, then our leadership students would be responsible for being the referee's. That would be twice the work, because we have to be the referee and learn HOW to be a referee. That shows how thankful we are to have the Weed and Seed officers to help us. Our relationship with the Weed and Seed program is very strong because they do so much to help our school. With them here helping us, we get to provide much more for the students that attend this school. Without them it would be super difficult for us. We wouldn't have referees in our sports, we wouldn't have judges in our contests and we wouldn't have any chaperons for our after school activities. Without them then we would be scrambling all over the place trying to have someone do everything they do for us. The officers do such a great job in what they do for us, and if they weren't here anymore then it would be unlikely for us to find anyone that could meet up to their expectations. That shows how important the Weed and Seed officers are to us.

All I'm asking you is if you could please help to fund money for the Weed and Seed program. Having them here to help our school is such an amazing experience because with them here we get to do so many things. Also, they do such a great job at what they do for us. Having them here for a longer amount of time would be great! We enjoy having them here every so often to help us. I would really appreciate if you could help to support them and fund for their program. I love having them here to help us. So, please take this letter into consideration. Thank you for your time and have an amazing day!

Sincerely,

Errlyn-Jan Sejalbo.



Student Body Government Secretary.

Ilima Intermediate School.

January 30, 2012

Dear whom it may concern,

This is a letter that for weed and seed. I am asking to fund for the weed and seed officers. They have helped our school, Ilima Intermediate many times, and we really appreciate it. Some things that they helped us with was refereeing basketball and football for ISA, with our door decorating and cheer off contest, and chaperoning our after school activities. As students, the officers were very friendly and they have been a great help. During Football, they would stay to referee for about an hour in the hot sun, and the same for basketball. For the door decorating and cheer off contests, they came down and helped watch and judge them. It would be disappointing if the officers couldn't come down to our school, they have helped out Ilima made it much easier for us. We could count on them to be there when we need it and if they don't have funding, they can no longer come to our school. If they didn't come to help out, we would have to find new people that would sacrifice their time to come and help us. It would be much more stressful, and if we did have help from the weed and seed officers, we would know that they will be there for us. So, as a student from Ilima, please fund for the weed and seed officers. It would mean a lot to us. Thank you for the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Tamera Mikamura

Tamera Mikamura

Agag

January 30 2012

To whom this may concern,

Aloha, my name is Jolene and I am Ilima Intermediate's 8th grade class office president. I have known Weed and Seed for quite a while, and it has been an honor working with them. They helped our school with many different activities in school such as, intramural. Weed and Seed helped us with intramural by refereeing basketball and football. They also helped us at ISA, inter school athletics. They helped judge at the our school's cheer off, door decorating contest and singing contest. But they also helped us with after school activities. They helped chaperone our welcome dance, and make sure everyone was safe on our campus. Throughout the events Weed and Seed has helped with us, I have been building a close relationship with them. We work together and care for each other like family. I met Weed and Seed during my 7th grade year in Ilima Intermediate and it has been a wonderful experience meeting them. Weed and Seed has made an impact on our community, and the students here in Ilima Intermediate. Weed and Seed has been coming on there own time to come and help us, and I am very appreciated to have them in my life. If Weed and Seed wasn't coming to Ilima Intermediate anymore it would of affected a lot of things. It would affect Student Body Government, we would have to do more jobs, for example intramural. We would have to fill in their jobs for referee. But it will also affect me. It would feel different without them being here with us

anymore, and since we all have our own friendships with them, it will be disappointing not seeing them anymore. I hope this year I will get a chance to work with them because they mean a lot to us. I generously ask you to keep funding for Weed and Seed because they are helping and making an impact on Ilima Intermediate for a good cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolene - Anne Agag". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jolene- Anne Agag

8th Grade Class Office President

Jan. 20. 2012

To whom it may concern,

This is a request from us if we could have you consider in funding the weed and seed to help us out again here at Ilima Intermediate. The Weed and Seed has helped us a lot here at Ilima Intermediate School that it would be a pity to see them away from us forever. The weed and seed officers have helped us in so many ways. They have helped us being judges for our door decorating contests and cheer off and also refereed in ISA's (Inter-School Athletics). They helped keep score in intramurals, and they come to our after- school events such as welcome dance. They also volunteered themselves as chaperones.

The bond between the officers and students are truly real. Some has even gotten "close" friendship with them. When the weed and seed officers were helping us, it was less to worry about and they made our jobs easier. They are really considerate, caring, and helpful. I don't know what we would do without them. We really look up to them. They are our trouble-shooters and they give peace to each and every one of us.

Think about it. If they were going for good, who will help us with referee in our ISA and intramurals? They are the ones who help us find a way out of predicaments and makes judging contests equal so it's fair for everybody. I can't really think of any other people right for this job besides your weed and seed officers. I mean, it's great that they are being promoted to a better job but we will really miss them if they would leave for good. I hope you can reconsider your decision. Well, thank you for taking the time to read my letter!

Sincerely,

Melani Cauilan

8th grade Ilima Student Government

Melani Cauilan

To whom it may concern,

The weed and seed is a program that helps my school and my leadership out with the events that we like to see happen in my school and community. I know that this program is running short on funds for a fact, and without them we wouldn't be able to host our dances, host our intramurals, and host other after school activities. Without them we wouldn't be able to fulfill our jobs as leadership and what we like to do for our students. The weed and seed isn't any ordinary program its always there ever since the beginning. The have a relationship with our school, our students, leadership and our teachers. Without them Ilima intermediate school would be just an ordinary school with no plans, no events. Without them students wouldn't be able to have fun outside during advisory, students wouldn't be able to have fun sometimes. Have you heard people need breaks and with there help we got breaks. Working all the time isn't good, and believe me i know that. So that why we have these plans.

They help referee our football, and basketball games. They do the referring because there is no one there no teacher no staff that are willing to help us because everyone is busy. So when we need help or support for things there always the first people there. They are willing to use there time to do what we need help on. Thats a true friend helping out when they need it. They don't even get paid from our school to help us they do it from the kindness of our hearts. They help us determine who's the winner in past functions like ISA also know as inter school athletics. When people came to play sports they helped watched the other students and keep them from making trouble on Ilima's campus. They also get involved in our cheer off. They help us judge and decide who's the winner for cheer off. In the past we had singing contest they helped us with that. You see what i mean we go way back. They were always there.

Without the weed and seed program guess what would happen to my school and the community around it. They do neighbor hood watches they keep young adults out of trouble. without them or neighbor hood may also be bad. But also without them everything would be depended on our students. We are only kids we only take so much, they give us that extra support when we want to do something for our school. They help make things happen when there is a doubt that it could. If the Weed and Seed left.. we wouldn't be able to have our sports. Without sports then students would feel all cramped up, everyone needs a little chill time and they help us with our schools chill time by refereeing doing something that us leadership don't fully understand well i don't understand. Without them the school wouldn't be able to put after school events. Without them everything would be depended on us and sometimes people just need support and back up when doing things. They help us run the games at our dances. They help us do so much stuff and they don't ask for anything in return. There not only our partners but they are our friends.

So please as a student that know this program please keep them funded. Please keep them supported please help them. I hope that they are always here, that they are always running and they never leave. Imagine what would happen if someone that you enjoy and always helped left thats the situation we are in. So please don't take away our friend. Please give them the support needed to keep on going. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Shanice Brown

Ilima Intermediate 8th grade Class Office Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shanice Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the typed name and title.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to start off by telling you what Weed & Seed does for our school. The officers in the Kapolei/ Ewa district, have helped Ilima in more ways that we've asked for. They've helped us with refereeing our intramurals (basketball, flag football), help be the judges of the activities we have at Ilima (cheer off, door decorating contest, singing contest), and help chaperone our afterschool activities (Welcome Dance, Winter Fair). They've done all that for our school, which is more than we could've asked for. We very much appreciate them taking the time out of their day, to come down and help us out. It shows that they really are there for the kids and I think that that's one of the main goals of Weed & Seed.

They've been an excellent help to our school, and without them, we'd be in trouble. That's how important they are to our school. They've come and taken some time out of their day to help our school, but they could've been busy and not come. If that would've happened, the Student Body Government might have been stuck without anyone to help out our school. That's why the Student Body Government is very grateful to have these officers take time out of their day to help our school. It means a lot to every single one of us because we know they have some other things to be doing, but instead, they want to help out the community and Ilima.

It's been fun "working" with some of officers because sometimes we just talk to them, when no one is playing during our intramurals, and just talk story with them. The officers are fun to be around because they're funny and love what they do. It shows in their expressions and they know that it's helping the students. I think that's what

important, to love your job. If you don't like the job you're working at, why stay there and be miserable, when you can be somewhere else being much happier? So I can tell by the way they look at the students, that they love what they do.

Finally, I would just like to ask if you could be able to fund the Weed & Seed program. I believe that they should be funded because the program that they do helps the students and the children in the community. It helps teach them that gangs and violent things aren't good for the community. They "weed" out the bad things in the community and "seed" in things that fill that spot, like more things that help kids learn not to do drugs, and how to prevent peer pressure. Weed & Seed makes the community we live in safer. That's why I am asking you to give money to the Weed & Seed program to help keep the program running because it could change lives in some kids in the future. Without this program, kids could give in to peer pressure or head in the wrong direction of their future. This program is very important to our community and we want to keep it going, to help make a difference in children's lives.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter. Please fund the Weed & Seed program and keep this program going. I hope this letter could help you be aware on how this program could make a strong impact in a child's life. I want to thank you once again, and please take action upon my request.

Mahalo,

Anne Platt



Ilima Intermediate School

7th Grade Class Office Treasurer

January 17, 2012

Dear Legislature,

We would like to have the Weed and Seed program's funding continued. The Weed and Seed program has done a lot for us here at Ilima. The officers are really kind when it comes to helping us with intramurals, our welcome dance, the inter-school athletics and many other various activities that we have in our school. First of all, they can do things that seem really tiring. Sometimes they stay in the hot sun while trying to coach an intramural. They don't even complain about the heat and they just do their job. They also try to keep us safe. This helps the students a lot. While doing their job, they also make sure that the students are being respectful to each other and are doing things that are safe. A good thing about the Weed and Seed officers is that they share a special bond with the students. They talk casually and rarely talk in a mean way. This adult-student relationship helps the students feel more comfortable with the officers and the students would eventually understand what the officers are trying to teach them and they would start to follow the rules. If they were not there to help keep some students do the right things, then they might start to disobey the rules. I really like the Weed and Seed officers and I would like to continue the funding so that future generations could experience the kindness of Weed and Seed. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

King K. Pesebre



To whom it may concern,

Please help fund the Weed and Seed program. The Weed and Seed program has been helping our school for a year or two, even maybe more than a year. Our school which is Ilima intermediate has become closer to the Weed and Seed program through out the activites we have done for the school. Not only our school created a relationship with them, also us students involved in the Leadership program or the Student Body Government group has been growing closer to the Weed and Seed program. I am apart of the leadership program and through the past times the Weed and Seed program have been helping us I have gotten use to them around and I some times talk to them about anything. Also, if there isn't any funding for the Weed and Seed program we won't be able to have any special activities. The activities that they helped us with is intrumirals, afterschool dance like the welcome dance and the spring fling. They have helped us with Inter School Athletics, and judging our cheer off and our door decorating contests that is helped before our winter break. If we didn't have any of these activities any more, it will affect the school. It will affect the school because we wouldn't have much activities going on and the school wouldn't be as fun. Also the students won't enjoy the school and would maybe do some bad things so that is why I am writing this letter so you can help and fund for the Weed and Seed program. Not only you will do good for schools that have this program, but also you will see some smiling kids in the school because they appreciate having these kinds of activities. If you help fund the Weed and Seed program then we would have fun activities in the school and every one will enjoy it all. Not only that, also our relationship with the Weed and Seed program and our school will grow a stronger relationship and everyone will be

happy. So please help and fund for the Weed and Seed program. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please take your time to make a decision of funding for the Weed and Seed program.

Sincerely,

Student Body Government President

Ilima Intermediate School

Rhea Mae Peralta

Rhea Mae Peralta ☺

stg

January 30, 2012

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you to ask if you would kindly consider the idea of helping fund the weed and seed program. Not only to help fund the weed and seed program but to also support them. Ilima Intermediate School supports the weed and seed program for many different reasons. The weed and seed program are very generous and kind because there are various times they come down to our school, ilima intermediate to help with school activities. Not only does the weed and seed program help our school but they may also help the other schools and our community as well. Anyways, how the weed and seed program helps our school ilima intermediate is by coming down to help us with our intramurals which is our sports like basketball intramurals, and football intramurals which is when they come down to our school and where we play sports they most of the time watch us to make sure we are safe and to referee the game. They came down for those "intramurals" in the middle of the day when it was all hot and sunny, not everyone would do that. They not only came down for the intramurals but they also were the ISA softball officials. They also came down to ilima intermediate school for judging contests such as singing contests, door decorations, and many more. The relationship we have with the weed and seed program and I am talking about school wise is where they help out the school just by coming down to help us with a few or a lot of school activities. Though the relationship we have with the weed and seed program is different with just the ilima intermediate student body government which is where I'm coming from, it's much more than just helping us out. They just always cooperate with us when we ask them very kindly to come down and help us out. They probably feel or how I feel is that

we ask them for a lot like to help us out and stuff but they just still always come down to help us. It's amazing. They're very good people and deserve the funding and the support from you guys. Imagine what it would be like without them, I don't even know what it would be like without them. They just help us out so much and not only our school but like I said also with the community. They don't have to even help the community out our school and other schools, but instead they choose to. For me to imagine what it would be like without them, I think the things that we (the student body government) provide for the school wouldn't even happen half the time because they play a big part in making majority of things happen. Things without them would be more difficult. Well all I have to say is please take into consideration in helping fund the weed and seed program and support them as well. Thank you for your time. Have a good one.

Sincerely,

Lima Intermediate School Leadership Representative

Shaela Marie Gutierrez Garces

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shaela Marie Gutierrez Garces". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name.

January 30, 2012

Dear legislature,

Hi my name is Joshua Ramos, I am the student body government secretary here at Ilima Intermediate. This letter is for me to explain to you how I feel about the weed and seed program and officers. First of all I would like to start off by saying thank you, thank you because you have created a group in which us students can interact with adults, thank you that the officers has made my job as a leadership student much more easier and fun. This group of officers has helped me and my school a lot. I just wish that you can still help them by funding them, funding the officers to just give them at least what they deserve. These group of officers has not only helped me but also my fellow students at Ilima. They help me by keeping track of my job. I actually know what to do but if I know that there doing that as there jobs, for example if they are refereeing then I know that that is not my job. They also make my job easier as a leadership student because if there weren't there than there will be more jobs for me and for the rest of the leadership students, they receive one of the most hardest jobs when there here, they need to talk to the students at games to keep them hyped and they need to keep track of each persons points, I have been a ref once and let me tell you, I can't even blow a whistle! See what I mean, this is just me but there are more things that they have done. Just like what I have just explained they were refs at our intramural games at Ilima, they also helped us with inter school athletics (ISA), and they have also helped us judge, door decorating contest, and the team cheer off. They helped us with dances, they helped us with all the things that go around in my school. I would just like to say that if

there officers, shouldn't they be in front of a desk taking calls for emergencies, or riding in police cars with there uniforms, hmmm not really what I expected for police officers, but let me explain to you. They do this for us students, they volunteer for us, in some cases we asked them to come and help but sometimes they volunteer. They probably have other important things to do then just hang around doing nothing and talking to students but no, they decide to do this, I could tell by there faces that they like what there doing, I can see when they are working they are smiling and I like that. There has been a relationship with the whole school and them, the weed and seed officers, all of us created a wall that cannot be broken down weather how hard you blow or how much times you punch, you cant knock it down because its there solid, not going anywhere, this is the way the relationship that they create this has been a great deal because we are just students and we don't really have this type of bond or what I like to say, friendship with adults. They have been really kind to us, when the students talk to them they aren't just some arrogant person just snobbing them or just talking like they want to stop a conversation, you could tell they are listening, you could see the laughter, you could see the expressions when some one says "whoa Mr, that was our ball" they laugh and they actually talk. With the leadership students I think that they have been so helpful. I don't know why I keep saying this but they have, every time after a game in which they refereed, we give them something to drink, weather if its ice tea of passion orange, they really appreciated it, they know how to say thank you, but the way that we say thank you isn't enough, they have helped so much and I think they deserve more then just a drink. If they weren't there helping us then I don't know what will happen, they have been just so helpful that I cant imagine them not being there. They ate just

that, the one with great personality, the one that volunteers, the one that wants to do things just too help, that's them, they are just so helpful. I just hope that you hear me out, I'm just asking you for the funding of the weed and seed program, this is the only way I can contact you just to help them, when you help them they help us, well not just us but the whole ewa beach and Kapolei district. These are just a few of the things that they have done and there are a lot more that can be added to this list. Thank you again but this time, thank you for reading my letter, thank you for your time, your time has not been wasted unless you do something, thank you for making us have the weed and seed program, and thank you for us having a great legislature like you!

Sincerely,



Joshua Ramos

Student body government secretary

Ilima Intermediate School

Ewa Makai Middle School
91-6291 Kapelei Parkway
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



to whom it may concern.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the weed & seed program for the Ewa community. My name is Denise Robinson, and I am a 8th grade student from Ewa Makai Middle. I'm writing this because I want to support them and keep them at our Ewa schools. We want to keep this program because we really enjoy your company. Some of our students are afraid of HPD, so if we have you guys you can prove to them wrong - that you can have fun too! We are very thankful for the HPD Weed & Seed Program and support the continuation of this in my community Ewa Beach.

Sincerely,

Denise Robinson

January 18, 2012



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

January 29, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairperson
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairperson
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, 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 the 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, appearing to read "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro

Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

January 30, 2012

**The Honorable Will Espero, Chairperson
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee of the Public Safety, Government Operations, and
Military Affairs**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.

I am a long time resident of Ewa Beach. I have been active working with Weed and Seed and I am a true witness how this program came in and made a huge difference here. Without the site coordinator and the Weed and Seed Officers, the graffiti, drugs and major illegal activities will come back. We were once called the Wild West, and since Weed and Seed, we have a better community. Most of all we all work together.

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



Cal Kimio Sueoka
Resident