

**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)

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: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

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

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

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

We support this bill provided that its passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration.

**III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

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

S.B. 2261  
January 30, 2010  
Page 2

The department defers to the Department of Human Resources Development in regards to the potential roadblocks identified by OCS regarding program expenses associated with personnel issues.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT



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

# LATE TESTIMONY

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Senator Wai 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 SB 2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

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

Sincerely,

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

Paul S. Taga  
Principal

January 31, 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

**LATE**

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.

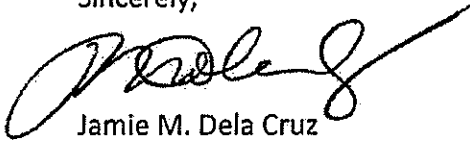
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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

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

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB2261.

Sincerely,



Jamie M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Principal, James Campbell High School

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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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 good fortune to have served as the first Weed and Seed Supervisor for the state and city. I have seen the collaboration between state, city and private agencies working together in a targeted neighborhood to make it safe for businesses and residents.

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,



John Kauwenaole, Retired Sergeant, Honolulu Police Department  
Chairperson, Waipahu Weed and Seed Steering Committee

# LATE TESTIMONY

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.

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.

Sincerely,



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



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

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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.

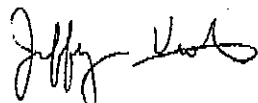
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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.

Sincerely,



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



# LATE TESTIMONY

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Lehua Lum  
Resident  
Kamehameha Homes

January 30, 2012

## LATE TESTIMONY

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.

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 SB 2261.

Sincerely,



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

January 31, 2012

**LATE**

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

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

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee and Members of the Committees:

I am humbly appealing for your support of SB 2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and /Ewa Beach. Weed & Seed is a collaborative effort which involves law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses to help reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

I am a Client Service Technician with the 'Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center for the past 4 years, a Part-Time Teacher at Waipahu Intermediate School and am a community service volunteer (RokZ Productions) working with schools and organizations in the Waipahu area. Over the years I have come to appreciate Weed & Seed successful community efforts when arriving for a crisis. Their efforts are due to their unique presence in the community, developing a deep relationship with the youth, their families, organizations and local businesses. Through their program the Weed & Seed Officers have molded a sense of security by being present, being involved and being caring for the people and community that they serve. They have made a difference, made a positive impact, made it safe, and made changes in 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 & Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support SB 2261.

Sincerely,

Zoe Tanaka  
94-455 Farrington Hwy.  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
808-671-3950 office  
808-277-0424 cel

# LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

FREDERICK D. PABLO  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

RANDOLF L. M. BALDEMOR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. No. 2380 Relating to Taxation

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2380 and provides the following information and comments for your consideration.

S.B. 2380 requires the Department to permit the counties access to income tax data of taxpayers for real property tax purposes.

Due to the high level of confidentiality afforded taxpayer information, both at the State and federal level, the Department cannot support providing non-Department of Taxation staff access to its income tax. County employees would be held to the same standard of confidentiality that Department employees must adhere to, which includes the possibility of termination and criminal charges should a violation occur.

At the same time, the Department understands the counties' need to verify income information as a requisite for receiving certain county-funded benefits. Currently, the Department is able to assist the counties in determining real property tax benefits for certain individuals. We are willing to work with the counties to identify and resolve other potential issues that may require information on taxpayers' status.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

# LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Members of the Committees on Public Safety, Government Operations, and  
Military Affairs and Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-3233

REGULAR  
MEETING: 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, January 31, 2012

SUBJECT: SB 2380 Relating to Tax - Sharing Information with Counties (SUPPORT)

Aloha Chair and Senators,

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on SB 2380, which would allow the state department of taxation to share certain tax information with the counties.

Currently, the City and County of Honolulu offers a real property tax credit to certain homeowners who make less than \$50,000 per year. Applicants are required to submit an application along with tax documents, including income tax returns, to the county Department of Budget and Fiscal Services. The county also currently requires a tax return transcript, and this requirement alone causes confusion and frustration for both the applicant and county employees. If the county were allowed access to information filed with the Hawaii Department of Taxation, the application process could be simplified and more efficient.

I therefore support this bill and ask you to vote "yes."