



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE  
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
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February 28, 2012

To: To: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair,  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

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

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

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

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

**III. II. CURRENT LAW**

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

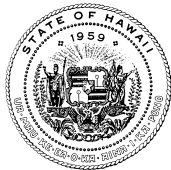
**COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

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

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

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.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
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February 24, 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.

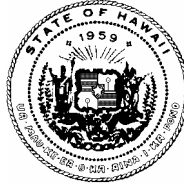
2) Some program expenses in the past were for police officers, on overtime, that assist and train persons in the activities of community policing. We would like an opportunity to confer with the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers, the Counties, and the Department of Human Resources Development 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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

February 28, 2012

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SB 2261 is to establish a weed and seed program within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and provide an unspecified appropriation for the program.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of S.B. 2261 to help with a comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization.

The existing Weed and Seed Honolulu program is currently under the umbrella of the YMCA. The Weed and Seed is involved with community revitalization in Waipahu, Ewa Beach and Kalihi-Palama. At the request of the Governor's Office, the Weed and Seed was asked to rejuvenate its program at the Mayor Wright Homes (MWH). The DHS coordinated with Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), Department of Public Safety, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Attorney's Office, and Weed and Seed to facilitate the return of the Weed and Seed to MWH. As a result of the coordinated effort and

collaboration among these agencies, a one year Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon by the parties to have the Weed and Seed assist HPHA in improving the security and safety environment at MWH and to help provide social programs that benefits the residents of MWH.

The Weed and Seed has a track record of success in all the communities that it has been involved with. The DHS supports its continued existence, the intent of this measure, but takes no position as to where Weed and Seed should be housed and defers to the earlier testimony each submitted by the Office of Community Service and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. It is our understanding that the Honolulu Weed and Seed has submitted a Grants-in-Aid application for the upcoming fiscal year. We leave it to the Committee's judgment as to whether this will be the more appropriate vehicle to accomplish the purpose of the bill, namely the continued support for the existence of the Honolulu Weed and Seed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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.

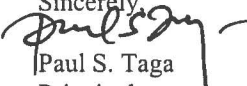
Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent crimes and drug-related crimes in my community.

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.

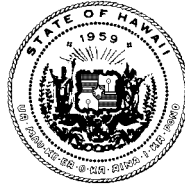
Beyond those significant efforts developed through our school partnership, I personally support and believe in the direction and goals of the Weed & Seed program. Coordination of efforts and leveraging of resources has allowed progress to occur in shaping a prideful and more resourceful Waipahu community. 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,  
  
Paul S. Taga  
Principal

NEIL AMBERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Waipahu Intermediate School  
94-455 Farrington Highway  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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 educate our students on how to be contributing citizens to society.

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

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

Sincerely,

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



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

KATHRYN MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
GOVERNOR SANFORD B. DOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1803 KAM IV ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96819  
PH: (808) 832-3340

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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. In the recent past, Dole Middle School has worked in collaboration with Weed & Seed and other community partners to improve quality of life and address some of the issues prevalent as daily realities for our families. Weed & Seed hosted a Gang Violence Prevention Training which we participated in.

Along with others that attended, we are now almost set to implement a Community Speak Out event at Kuhio Park Terrace on 2/29/12. This event will allow us to connect with the residents themselves as we seek to provide services and educational opportunities that address the needs as heard from them. This past January, 150 of our students assisted in a large-scale graffiti paint over where they were able to work in unison with police, Rep. John Mizuno and his staff, and the Hauiki Citizen's Patrol group. 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,

*Red Carter*  
*for*

Mrs. Arnie Kikawa,  
Principal

# MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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.

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

Over the past eleven years of managing the Waipahu Town Center, I have seen and experienced much improvement in our Waipahu community as a result of the direct involvement and tireless hours that the Weed and Seed officers have devoted into educating and mentoring our keiki, young adults and parents to seek the right choices in creating better lives for themselves. The Waipahu community will always need the assistance of outreach programs however, Weed and Seed has proven to be a success on its own coat tails amongst the residents and businesses.

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

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

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC

Agent for Waipahu, LLC



Carol Y. Brack  
Executive Vice President

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.  
1801 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 800  
Tiburon, CA 94920  
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MERIDIAN PACIFIC  
94-050 Farrington Highway, Suite E1-3  
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SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**LINAPUNI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
1434 LINAPUNI STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

The dedication of Weed & Seed staff and police officers; to connect to our students, school and community, has inspired school faculty to work a little bit later and do a little bit more for community-based prevention projects. These activities, that have helped educate our families, inevitably help stabilize our students for better success and attendance in school.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Sunahara", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia Sunahara  
Principal  
Linapuni Elementary School  
1434 Linapuni Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Nell Abercrombie  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN B. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KALAKAUA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
821 Kalihi St.  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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-AlaMoana, 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.

Kalakaua Middle School has benefitted from the Weed & Seed program through assistance with our Career Days, Ohana Fairs, and Bullying presentation to our faculty by Weed & Seed police officers. Our counselor and SASA both attended the Gang Violence Prevention Training this past September and are currently active with the plans being made for the follow-up project in KPT later this month. Weed & Seed is a regular resource that can be drawn upon to benefit our students, families and 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorelei Karasaki".

Lorelei Karasaki  
Principal  
Kalakaua Middle School  
821 Kalihi St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

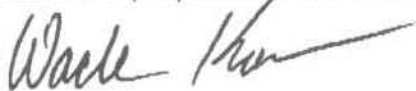
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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,



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

# MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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.

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

Over the past eleven years of managing the Waipahu Town Center, I have seen and experienced much improvement in our Waipahu community as a result of the direct involvement and tireless hours that the Weed and Seed officers have devoted into educating and mentoring our keiki, young adults and parents to seek the right choices in creating better lives for themselves. The Waipahu community will always need the assistance of outreach programs however, Weed and Seed has proven to be a success on its own coat tails amongst the residents and businesses.

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

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

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC

Agent for Waipahu, LLC



Carol Y. Brack  
Executive Vice President

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

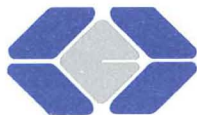
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February 28, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Espero and Hee and Committee Members:

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

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

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

I would like to suggest two amendments to the bill:

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

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

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Luning".

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



February 21, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Your support of SB 2261 is needed to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

Weed and Seed facilitates collaboration amongst law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses to devise strategies and programs to "weed" out violent and drug-related crimes and plant the "seeds" of new and viable businesses and activities in our communities. Weed and Seed has provided the Fort Street Mall Business Improvement District Association with a conduit that enables our merchants to share concerns and discuss ideas and strategies, in addition to providing our mall community with a better understanding of law enforcement.

Weed and Seed enables us to gather, talk, and develop practical and realistic solutions that can positively affect our community. Weed and Seed has allowed us to build consensus amongst our diverse stakeholders and it has given us credibility and a voice that is heard. Weed and Seed is vital to ensure that our community maintains a strong network as the drug problem and its accompanying social ills are not easily eliminated or resolved.

Please support SB 2261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gene Yipkoi'.

Gene Yipkoi  
President & Executive Director





**CEDAR**  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

Sr Pastor: Jimmy Yamada

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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-Aia 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. This is an important model: to have communities work together.

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

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.

Sincerely,

  
Sr Pastor James T Yamada (Jimmy Yamada)



## Kalihi Baptist Church

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

John Vaughn, Pastor

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

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



# Kaumakapili Church

Established 1838

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
766 NORTH KING STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
PHONE: (808) 845-0908

Kahu Richard K. Kamanu, Senior Pastor  
Kahu David K. Kaupu, Emeritus (Retired)

February 22, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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. Although, recently the community had to deal with violent crime activity within the last six months, compared to where we were 5 years ago the number of violent crimes has actually decreased.

We have partnered with this program by making our facilities available for community and program meetings, as well as, a location for surveillance of illegal activity in our vicinity. We have vowed to continue to support and partner with this program

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,

Kahu Richard K. Kamanu  
Kahu Mua, Senior Pastor

**Broadcast House of the Pacific, Inc.**

1734 S. King Street • Honolulu, HI 96826 • (808) 946-2844 • 947-3531 FAX

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

As part of the Weed & Seed effort to reduce crime, we helped by airing educational messages to the community in Filipino, Samoan, Tongan, Marshallese, Chuukese and Pohnpeian languages.

The feedback we received from these communities was very favorable. The communities were very happy to receive some help; but most importantly creating a personal relationship with the Honolulu Police Department in fighting crime.

This is the one of the most imaginative and practical outreach program to get through to these communities. We are willing partners of Weed & Seed and will always do our best to help the cause by providing affordable campaigns with announcements in Ethnic Languages.

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,

Leona Jona  
Pres./Gen. Mgr.

**TJ MAHONEY & ASSOCIATES**

Ka Hale Ho`āla Hou No Nā Wāhine

*The Home of Reawakening For Women*

February 9, 2012

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair; Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

This letter is being written in strong support of the Grant-In-Aid funding requested to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. Our program, TJ Mahoney & Associates, Ka Hale Ho`āla Hou No Na Wahine (The Home of Reawakening for Women), contracts with the State Department of Public Safety and provides residential transitional services for female offenders exiting the criminal justice system and re-entering the community.

Nine years ago, our program re-located from the Makiki area to the Kalihi Palama area. As an organization, we are extremely conscientious about being good neighbors and participating in pro-social and positive neighborhood enhancing efforts. For this reason, we partnered with Weed and Seed in their efforts to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in our community. Our on-going collaboration with Weed and Seed provides our residents with the opportunity to give back to the community in meaningful ways, participating in positive, pro-social interactions with a wide array of community members. This serves to decrease the stigma surrounding ex-offenders and increases the potential for their successful community re-integration.

We commend Weed and Seed for their positive contributions to community safety and urge you to support their request for Grant-In-Aid funding. It is our contention that this project benefits all in helping make safer communities for everyone.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 748-4309.

Very Truly Yours,

TJ Mahoney &amp; Associates

Ka Hale Ho`āla Hou No Nā Wāhine



Lorraine Robinson

Executive Director

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mailekanemaru@yahoo.com](mailto:mailekanemaru@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2261 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2012 7:57:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Comments WAM Decision Making Feb 28 2012.doc](#)

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Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2261

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Maile Kanemaru  
Organization: Weed and Seed  
E-mail: [mailekanemaru@yahoo.com](mailto:mailekanemaru@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2012

Comments:

Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

Date: February 28, 2012

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**RE: SB2261 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**

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

I am in strong support of SB2261.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like the committee to consider the amendments made in HB2773HD2. I have attached a copy for your review.

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

The YMCA of Honolulu has been the fiscal agent and employer of the Weed and Seed staff for twelve years.

After speaking with staff from the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services, as well as staff from the Attorney General's office, the alternative grant-in-aid, is preferable to establishing Weed and Seed as a program within the Dept of Labor.

The Office of Community Service has in the past, been a Program Manager of funds for Weed and Seed. Most of the residents served are from low to moderate income households and many are from immigrant families.

I have attached a copy of HB2773 HD2 for your review.

Thank you for your consideration.





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

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

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,

Macy Jean Castillo-Barkley  
Owner

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Rose Ayala-Switzer  
Resident  
Tenant Association President  
Kaahumanu Homes



**HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, 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 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.



February 15, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
 The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
 & Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
 State Capitol  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Dear: Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

I am writing to support 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 when it operates as an active program in areas that need such interventions.

Weed & Seed has in the past been a partner with Hawaii Literacy to utilize federal funding to increase our capacity to deliver free literacy services to over 500 youth and families of Kuhio Park Terrace and Mayor Wright Homes. In 2008 and 2009, funds through Weed & Seed helped us to purchase needed equipment and supplies that enhanced our services in these communities, and allowed us to expand our after-school and evening literacy, education, and ESL programs to six days a week and provide much needed positive, educational activities that build literacy and life skills for families with many needs. We were proud that our program could be one of the "Seeds" for a better community!

Weed and Seed is a viable organizational tool and community resource that could have great impact if continued. Your support of this bill would allow community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities. Mahalo for your consideration and for all your work to make our communities safer and livable for everyone.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Skjold  
 Executive Director

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**Board of Directors**

R. Scott Simon, *President* • Rebecca Knuth, *Vice President* • Daniel Ho, *Treasurer* • Suzanne Skjold, *Secretary*  
 Gary Baumer • Rachel del Rosario • Mitchell Ka'aiali'i • Sean K. Knox • Jason Masaki  
 Marc Okumura • Shaun Salvador • Brett Seltman • G. Todd Wither • James Wong • *Incoming 2012*

Hawaii Literacy • 200 N Vineyard Blvd, Suite 320 • Honolulu, HI 96817  
 Telephone (808) 537-6706 • Facsimile (808) 537-3072 • Internet: [www.hawaiiliteracy.org](http://www.hawaiiliteracy.org)

**PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER**

February 22, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community. Our organization Pacific Gateway Center was one of the collaborating organizations of Weed and Seed and was energized to be selected for the very first Weed and Seed site. The drastic drop in crime was visible and far reaching.

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

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

Sincerely,

Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

**From:** [Jeffrey Alameida](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony re: SB2261  
**Date:** Sunday, February 26, 2012 3:52:34 PM

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February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211

I am appealing for your support of SB 2261 to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy in Kalihi

Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Reach. The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses have helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Empower Oahu has worked with Weed and Seed in each of the project communities through its Neighborhood Revitalization and Community Strengthening Programs. In addition, it plays an integral role in meeting the social and economic objectives outlined in each communities Neighborhood Plan.

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

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

[Jeffrey Kalani Alameida, CFP](#)  
Executive Director  
Empower O`ahu

[www.empoweroahu.org](http://www.empoweroahu.org)  
808.676.7679

P.O. Box 983  
Waialua HI 96791



February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261- RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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 Mikinolia Place  
Aiea, HI 96701

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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 been partnered with “GEAR Up Waipahu” and New Hope Leeward to work with the FRESH START program targeting (current) Waipahu High School 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are either about to fail or have repeated 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Their work with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Waipahu Elementary with 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  
Department of Health  
Public Health Nursing  
Leeward Oahu PHN Section  
94-275 Mokuola St. Rm. 101  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

February 23, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

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  
1255 Nuuanu Ave., E807  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**From:** [Eric Wong](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 2261, re: Weed and Seed Program  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2012 11:24:56 AM

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February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

& Members of the Ways and Means Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chairman Ige, Vice-Chairwoman Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

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

Decision Hearing on Tuesday, February 28, 2012

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

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

On behalf of the Kekaulike Courtyards residents here in Chinatown, we are part of an active Citizen Patrol unit under the Honolulu Police Department supported by assigned Weed and Seed, Community Policing police officers. We believe this working relationship as their 'eyes and ears' for and with the police department creates a safer community for those working and living in Chinatown.

I hope you will agree that Weed and Seed is a critical community resource and organizational tool that needs to be continued. Your support of this critical program ensures our community partners continue building a strong network of committed citizens earnestly preventing crime. Weed and Seed is critical in our community thus I humbly urge that you support SB 2261; we cannot afford to let crime takes its place in our communities.

Sincerely,

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

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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.

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 (current) Waipahu High School 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are on the verge of failing or who are repeating the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

They will also be instrumental in 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 and 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 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,

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

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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 and drug free activities for the residents of Waipahu. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated Weed and Seed team. I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities.

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

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

Sincerely,

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

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the WAM Committee:

**Re: SB 2261– RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 9:00am in Room 211**

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

February 9, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear: Chair Ige, 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.

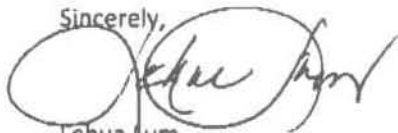
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

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



2.24.12

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, 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 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.

Our weed and seed partners have played an integral part in preserving the safety of our student body of 2800 and of our faculty and staff of approximately 200. While being the biggest high school in the state of Hawai'i, they are available at times when safety is a concern for all of us. Our partnership with weed and seed officers relays the message to our community that we value that our children feel safe when coming to school. When our students feel safe than learning can take place.

A great example of their caring for our students is when they are with us during our Adopt a Block projects in the community. Alongside them we tackle the issues of grafitti and illegal dumping on our roadways and community walls.

Another example is when they assist us with our periodic truancy sweep events. Besides arresting truant students, they also counsel our children to make the right decisions and come to school on time.

There are many more examples defining our partnerships, and it would be terrible if this partnership would suddenly end. The support that we get from our weed and seed partners are truly detrimental in the success for all of our students.

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,

Wayne Guevara

Vice Principal

James Campbell High School