



**LATE**

# HB1580 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.  
Report Title: Grants; Weed and Seed Strategy; Appropriation (\$)  
Description: Appropriates funds for grants to maintain and expand the weed and seed strategy, which is a collaborative effort to reclaim, restore, and rebuild communities. Appropriates funds. (HB1580 HD1)  
Companion: [SB2182](#)  
Package: None  
Current Referral: PSM/JDL, WAM  
Introducer(s): RHOADS, AQUINO



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

March 15, 2016

**The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair, and Members**  
**Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs**  
**The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Members,**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:**

**RE: HB.1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580 H.D.1 to sustain Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown, Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

My name is Ed Oshiro and I am presently the principal of Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed in Waipahu and in Ewa for about 10 years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because I have seen tremendous improvement in the Kalihi-Waipahu, Ewa areas where Weed and Seed made a difference in lessening drug-related crimes! At Ewa Makai Middle our Weed and Seed Officers have made a positive difference in the lives of our middle schoolers by conducting pedestrian and bike safety presentations, volunteering as referrers and umpires for many sporting activities, and many other things!

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro, Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – LEEWARD DISTRICT  
**ILIMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**  
91-884 FORT WEAVER ROAD  
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706  
Office (808) 687-9300  
**Fax (808) 689-1258**

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair and Members of  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and  
Members of Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Shimabukuro and Members of the  
Committee:

My name is Christopher D. Bonilla, and I am the principal of Ilima Intermediate School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I have spent most of my career in the Campbell Complex serving in the capacity as a former Education Assistant, Summer School Director, School Counselor, and Student Services Coordinator. While serving a Student Services Coordinator at James Campbell High School from 2005-2009, I worked closely with the Ewa Beach Weed and Seed Program to address truancy. With the help of law enforcement, Campbell High School's utilized community sweeps to address truancy.

In my new role as principal of Ilima Intermediate School, our school has made it a point to collaborate closely with the Ewa Beach Weed and Seed Program to share with our faculty and staff various supports offered to the school. As a former Education Assistant and School Counselor at Ilima Intermediate from 2001 to 2004, the Ewa Beach Weed and Seed Program has been instrumental in assisting our school with various student activities. The following is a list of the supports, which our Ewa Beach Weed and Seed Program has offered:

1. Chaperoning school dances and socials
2. Law enforcement officers officiate basketball, volleyball, and soccer games.
3. Judging door contest decorations, poster contests and cheer contests.
4. Assistance with school-wide evacuation drills
5. Provide students opportunities to perform community service projects which include beach and road clean ups, sign-waving (Drive Safe 4 Ewa).

I am appealing for your support of HB1580.H.D.1 to sustain the Weed and Seed Program. Ilima Intermediate is proud of its partnership with the program, and we hope to continue to sustain this relationship in order to support our students in Ewa Beach.

Sincerely,  
Christopher D. Bonilla

Principal



First Hawaiian Bank

Ward Branch

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Members,  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB.1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown, Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Anna Kobashigawa and I am the branch manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Ward Branch. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 4 years.

I support Weed and Seed because I have personally seen improvement in the Ewa Beach community as a result of Weed & Seed's neighborhood restoration and clean ups. The condition of the neighborhood impacts the behavior of residents. Well maintained public area hold residents to a higher standard and builds community pride. We have experienced no recent vandalism at the bank.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Kobashigawa  
Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager

P (808) 593-9948 | F (808) 593-9045 | email: [akobashigawa@fhb.com](mailto:akobashigawa@fhb.com)





## McDonald's® of Ewa Beach

91-919 Fort Weaver Road - Ewa Beach, HI 96706 - Phone 808.689.8787

March 15, 2016

**The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Members,  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB.1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown, Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Richard Quiamzon and I am a member of the Ewa Weed and Seed. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Hawaii for the past 9 years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because I seen firsthand the positive changes Weed and Seed accomplished since designated in Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed works with the community, and they are the link to resources, partnerships and most of all with law enforcement. We work together to look for solutions and how we all can contribute to keep our community a safer place to live, work, and play.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.

Sincerely,

Richard Quiamzon  
Steering Committee Chairperson  
General Manager  
McDonald's of Ewa Beach

March 15, 2016

**The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, and Members,  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB.1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown, Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Dawn Balecha and I am a preschool teacher at Blessing from Heaven Preschool in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Ewa Weed and Seed for the past 5 years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because of the types of programs they offer in our community. As a preschool teacher my goal is to teach my students safety and making good choices. The Weed and Seed Officers have made many visits to our school to talk to our preschoolers. Although majority of my families are working parents, they do face hardship, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, they offer food distributions that many of my families receives food items. They offer an excellent Culinary Arts Summer Program at James Campbell High School that my oldest son participated. It gave him an interest in Culinary and will be attending Leeward Community College's Culinary Arts Program next Fall.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Balecha

808-321-6880

91-1021 D Manaolana Street

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

March 15, 2016

Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**RE: HB – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am asking for your support with HB1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program. My name is Malia Ikeda and I have been a resident of Ewa Beach for over twenty years. Weed and Seed has made an impact in our community as well as in the other sites. I have been involved with Weed and Seed as a Steering Committee Member for Site III: Ewa-Ewa Beach for a year, and have also partnered with them for community events for the past five years.

Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses. Their presence has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes and have made an impact on our youth. I have seen the four Weed and Seed strategies of Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention/Intervention/Treatment, and Neighborhood Revitalization being implemented with these programs:

- Speed control measures/Drive Safe Campaign
- Career Day/Read Aloud with area elementary schools
- Kupuna Resource Fair
- Youth Programs (sports, RAP sessions, keiki ID)
- Citizen Patrol Walks/Neighborhood Security Watch
- Speak Out Session
- Community Clean Ups

These are just a few of the Weed and Seed programs in our community. Your continued support of this important initiative will ensure the continued growth of Weed and Seed. This program is integral in our communities.

**I urge you to support HB 1580 so Weed and Seed can continue to implement their strategies in the community.**

Very Respectfully,

Malia Ikeda



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members  
of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580\\_HSCR152-16\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf) – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Gale Mejia and I am a member of the Waipahu Steering Committee and Chair of the Waipahu Community Coalition. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past seven years.

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

Weed and Seed has made a significant difference in the Waipahu community in the following ways:

- 1) Providing the RAP program at Waipahu and Honowai Elementary Schools that help students make good decisions.
- 2) Mentoring high school students at Waipahu High School through the Na Alaka'i student club to reach out to fellow students in need.
- 3) Supporting safe communities through community policing groups, anti-bullying presentations and community meetings on the negative impact of drinking and drugs on our youth.
- 4) Supporting beautification events that engage community members, both young and old, to take pride in our community.
- 5) Providing consultation and manpower to support family-oriented events such as the annual Christmas Carnival and Song Festival at the Waipahu Town Center, as well as the Historic Tour of Waipahu.

A recent evaluation has shown a steady decline in juvenile crime in Waipahu thanks to the efforts of Weed & Seed and other community partners. **I urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580, HD1.**

Sincerely,

Gale Mejia  
91-544 Huleia Place  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
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& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580\\_HSCR152-16.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16.pdf)– RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Barbara Tom and I am a retired Registered Nurse. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 15 years and currently serve on its Steering Committee.

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, 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 have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

I support Weed and Seed because they have been a key component to reducing crime rates in Waipahu. Their approach of attacking crime through education in the schools and community is one that I am personally involved with as a volunteer.

The Waipahu Safe Haven Computer Center was created as a way for students to complete their homework with assistance from volunteer tutors in the community. Its creation was supported by Weed & Seed through collaboration with Waipahu Community Coalition, Parents and Children Together, Hoomaka Hou Learning Center, the DOE's ESL Leeward District, Americorp/Vista, and the community members. It is housed in a Weed & Seed office in the community in the Pupuole area. In addition to student education, the center also provides education for limited English speaking adults through adult education as well as digital literacy in hopes of assisting them with securing jobs. Additionally, it provides limited English speaking women with the opportunity to improve their economic situation through learning how to sew. These innovative approaches to prevention in the community are all helping to decrease the crime rate as it provides education to an extremely needy population.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

I urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580, HD1.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tom RN  
98-1854 Mikiolia Place  
Aiea, HI 96701



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and  
Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha. My name is George Yakowenko and I have been a volunteer for the Harbor View  
Neighborhood Security Watch group for the past 26 years. I feel that it is important for the  
residents to become active in helping keep their neighborhood safe. The police are not  
staffed sufficiently to provide full protection to the residents.

I am appealing for your support of HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in  
Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, 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 have been an active participant in the Waipahu Weed & Seed Program for over 15 years. I  
have seen firsthand the results which have greatly reduced the crime rates and have  
observed the restoration of the community by bringing together many residents, businesses  
and organizations to revitalize our community.

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 HB1580, HD1.

Sincerely,

George Yakowenko  
94-260 Kipou St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797  
Proud Waipahu Resident for 33 years

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
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State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Jan Nishihira. I am a Department of Health Public Health Nurse and a member of the  
Waipahu Community Coalition. I am appealing for your support SB2182 to sustain the Weed and  
Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

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 participate 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.

**I urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580, HD1.**

Sincerely,

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

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
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State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members  
of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-  
Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Kelli Buenconsejo. I am  
a Public Health Nurse and serve on the Board of the Waipahu Community Coalition.

- I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed, because I have seen the improvement in my  
community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities.  
They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with  
elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse,  
truancy and gang involvement. They've organized graffiti paint outs and participated in  
beautification projects. They've assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most  
at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly.
- They work with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Waipahu and Honowai 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 were 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 were instrumental in hosting the first discussions regarding the over representation of  
Polynesian youth in the Juvenile Justice System. This led to the creation of the Civil Citation  
program which was implemented in Kalihi to divert first time offenders into a culturally based  
program instead of into the Juvenile Justice System.
- They are an integral part of the Waipahu Community Coalition and help to provide safe, healthy,  
drug-free activities for the residents of Waipahu. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated  
professionals to improve Waipahu and I look forward to working with them in future projects.

**I urge you to please support HB1580, HD1.**

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN  
State of Hawaii  
Department of Health  
Public Health Nursing Branch  
Leeward Oahu Nursing Office  
94-275 Mokuola Street Rm 101  
Waipahu, HI 96797



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
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State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Rochelle Kalili, a former resident of Waipahu and former member of the Waipahu Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past six years.

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

As a parent of 6 children and 3 grandchildren who once lived in Waipahu, my first priority is the safety of my family. Unfortunately, my former home of 20 years, Waipahu, has the stigma of being a bad place to live. While I acknowledge that there are criminal and drug issues, I also know that Waipahu is a safer place to live and work **because of Weed and Seed**. Through Weed and Seed, we have a team of officers who are designated to work hand in hand with the community to solve problems. In fact, just three years ago, they arrested some people for prostitution near where I used to live and recently, arrested two people for distributing crystal meth near a park where children play.

As a parent-community facilitator at an area elementary school, I have seen the improvement in the way our students/children relate to police officers. In the past, many of our children viewed officers as aggressive people who only caused harm to their 'ohana. Through the partnerships that the Weed and Seed officers have created, **it has changed their views**. They now see police officers as people who are looking out for their best interests; people they can trust. Weed and Seed has educated individuals on how drugs and other negative influences ruin families and community. **Weed and Seed has empowered residents to take back their community**. The residents are no longer afraid to call 9-1-1 to ask for help. As the saying goes, "Ohana means no one is left behind." I believe that because of Weed and Seed, no one in Waipahu is left behind.

**We need Weed & Seed to continue in our communities.** Please demonstrate your support of Weed & Seed by supporting HB1580, HD1.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Kalili  
Parent Community Networking Center  
94-465 Waipahu Street  
Waipahu HI 96797

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1– RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Susan Moniz and I am a resident of Waipahu. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past eight years.

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

Weed and Seed has made a significant difference in my community in the following ways:

- 6) Reduced the truancy in public schools. The Weed and Seed officers show a genuine concern for the children by their visibility and hands-on training of the youth.
- 7) Under-privileged adults from our diverse community consisting of Micronesian, Chuukese, Samoan, Tongan, Filipino, etc. are given a chance to attend Computer and Sewing Center classes on improving their family's lives and finding ways to be a productive member of the community.
- 8) After the "Weeding", Weed and Seed sustained, through its maintenance and diligence, a positive, safe community through graffiti paint out and community clean ups.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580, HD1.**

Sincerely,

Susan Moniz  
94-534 Awamoi Street  
Waipahu HI 96797

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
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Members of the Committees:

RE: HB1580, HD1- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580, HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is James "Sparky" Rodrigues and I am a member of the Waipahu Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past six years.

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

I live in Waianae and I have managed the 'Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center for 5+ years developing Community Media Access with schools and organizations in Waipahu, I am a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition, and prior to that helped develop the 'Olelo Waianae Community Media Center for 5 years. I have witnessed HPDs community efforts as enforcement having success when they arrive for a crisis. However the Weed and Seed Officers have created a unique presence in the community and developed a deep relationship with organizations, youth, families and businesses. The Weed and Seed Officers and program have created a sense of security that stems from being present, involved and caring for the people & community they serve. The Weed and Seed Officers are very different from regular HPD Officers. The Weed and Seed Officers have created a relationship that starts with very young youth that help develop a level of respect for authority, law and order. Their presence imbedded into the fabric of Waipahu changes the dynamics and behavior of the community for the positive. They make a difference. They have a positive impact. They make it safe for all to thrive and succeed. Please support Weed and Seed. **Please support HB1580, HD1.**

Sincerely,

James "Sparky" Rodrigues  
94-455 Farrington Hwy.  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
808-352-0059 cell

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs

The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB 1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-  
Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Kelle Shodahl and I live and work in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and  
Seed for 6 years.

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

families who receive childcare assistance so that the parents can go out to work or participate in a job  
training program. To help keep tuition affordable, I urge my families to do community service such as:  
help coordinate projects. Today, my parents not only participate at our yearly campus beautification  
projects but also with community cleanup projects and events. I am proud to say Blessing from Heaven  
Preschool is well represented. The Officers that work closely with Weed and Seed do classroom visits to  
talk to my students on “Don’t Talk to Stranger.” We need Weed and Seed in Ewa Beach to keep our  
community working as a team. To continue educating the community to help keep our community a safe  
place to live, work and play.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be  
continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the  
community.**

Sincerely,

Kelle Shodahl  
91-679 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706



March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB 1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Mark Ramos and I am a Police Corporal for the Honolulu Police Department. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Ewa Beach for 11 years.

Having been a Police Officer on the West side of the island, I have seen a definite difference in communities that do and do not have Weed and Seed program in place. I have been fortunate enough to have worked in the Ewa Beach area for the last 12 of my 24 years as a Police Officer with the Honolulu Police Department. Being able to see a community grow as rapidly as it has, it been an interesting and challenging experience. The ability to provide higher bail amounts for individuals that are arrested in crimes in the area. We have been able to send a message to individuals who think about committing crimes in the area., not that we will not stand by and let you offend over and over again,

With the increases of homes has brought an increase of families to the area. As the community has grown, so has the need for greater youth activities and intervention. Having seen firsthand how juveniles in the area have been able to benefit from youth mentoring programs and social intervention with officers has been amazing. The Weed and Seed program has provided opportunities for community youth to be involved in activities and events that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to experience.

Knowing that the Weed and Seed program will unlikely be expanding to other areas of the island, I greatly urge you to support the existing sites and programs that are in place and have recently struggled to continue to be good.

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

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,  
Corporal Mark Ramos  
808-478-4649

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB 1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support of HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Rowena Martinez and I live, work and play in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and Seed from the time it came to my community. It has been many years since I began advocating for this program, and I can't remember how long, but I do remember what Ewa Beach was like before Weed and Seed came. We use to be known as the wild, wild, west, the end of the road with the worst traffic in the state!

You have heard this many times I'm sure. That Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community. As a resident of Ewa Beach for 55 years, I've witnessed amazing changes to this place I call home. Some good, some bad, mostly good, thanks in part to the Weed and Seed program. As the saying goes "it takes a village to raise a child", it took Weed and Seed to support and connect the community.

I support Weed and Seed because it has given this growing community as sense of pride and safety, blending the old and new through programs, bringing schools, businesses and organizations together to actively participate in community events.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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. Another quote for you, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound in gold". Weed and Seed is definitely worth every penny!

**I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,  
Rowena Martinez, PCNC (Parent Facilitator) James Campbell High School  
91-531 Aikanaka Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
(808) 305-3606 Work (808) 358-9381 Cell

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB 1580.H.D.1 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support SB2182 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-  
Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Ruth Samuel and I live in the Kalihi area. I am also a steering committee member for  
Site I. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 5 years.

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

Weed and Seed Hawaii does an excellent job linking law enforcement with everyone in the community.  
It is because of their mission I became a member of Site I Steering Committee and have learned so much  
from them. With excellent partnerships in schools and other social services agencies, excellent youth  
mentoring programs are now done in many of our schools. Many of their community service projects  
help our parks and streets by cleaning up and painting graffiti on walls and bus stops and litter along our  
streets.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be  
continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D. 1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the  
community.**

Sincerely,  
Ruth Samuel  
808-226-5080  
ruth.samuel1001@yahoo.com

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and  
Members of the Committees:

**RE: HB 1580.H.D.1. – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580.H.D.1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-  
Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Shaunna Okuda and I work in Kalihi area and the chairperson for Site I- Weed and Seed  
Site. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 6 years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because as the chairperson of the Site I- Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-  
Sheridan Steering Committee, I have had the good fortune of being able to see firsthand how Weed and Seed  
has been in our community. Resident and businesses are willing to join citizen patrol groups, and are more  
willing to talk about what is going on in the community. Weed and Seed has been involved in our community  
by coordinating events, and providing programs in our schools. They build relationships between law  
enforcement and the community to work together. They are the in between person who help fill in the gap.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be  
continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to support HB 1580.H.D.1 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the  
community.**

Sincerely,  
Shaunna Okuda  
808-349-1424  
s808okuda@gmail.com

March 15, 2016

Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**RE: HB 1580 RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

I am appealing for your support HB 1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Diane Tabangay and I am a life-long resident of Oahu who has dedicated her life to serving children and families in our communities. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for over ten years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because I have experienced first-hand the positive difference it is making in our most vulnerable communities. The Weed and Seed strategy has proven to be an effective strategy for engaging residents of all ages, businesses, and non-profits, including our schools, in “taking back” their community so it can be a safe place to live, work, and play. Specific to youth, Weed and Seed staff provides the much needed coordination and facilitation that bridges our at-risk youth with law enforcement, creating trusting and respectful relationships; as well as valuable forming partnerships that keep our youth off the street and engaged in meaningful programs.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued 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.

**I urge you to support HB 1580 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,  
Diane Tabangay, Resident  
Serving children/youth and families since 1974  
98-443 Kilihea Way  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
808-226-0179  
J3tabangay@aol.com



**HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military  
Affairs

The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to ask for your support of HB1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and 'Ewa/'Ewa Beach. My name is Sharene Saito Tam and I am the Vice President for Haseko Development, Inc. in 'Ewa Beach. My company and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for more than a decade.

This collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce both violent and drug-related crimes, as well as inspire community pride.

I have seen the benefits of this effort in my community. The truancy rate at area schools has fallen significantly since Weed and Seed came to 'Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed officers help residents and students organize citizen patrols to walk neighborhood streets, and their partnerships with community members has helped to paint out graffiti and clean up neighborhood parks. In addition, officers provide valuable life skills and job training via "seeding" efforts such as the summer culinary arts program. By having Weed and Seed officers working hand in hand with residents, students and businesses, residents are inspired to work together to keep our community safe.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your invaluable support of this important initiative will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to strengthen its network of committed citizens working toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

**I urge you to support HB1580 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Mahalo,

Sharene Saito Tam

Vice President

Haseko Development, Inc.