



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 1580, RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Julie Ebato, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Administrator

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Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive Budget. The Department respectfully recommends one amendment be made to the bill.

The bill provides funding to the Department to support the Weed and Seed strategy. In order to expedite the contracting process, the Department requests that the bill be amended to provide that funds be appropriated as a grant to Empower Oahu pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with the Department designated as the expending agency. Empower Oahu is currently implementing the Weed and Seed efforts on Oahu.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this measure with the suggested amendments.

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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.

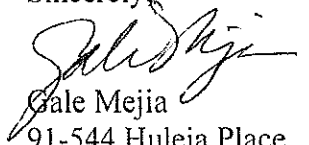
Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

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.**

Sincerely,

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

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR



Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIPAHAU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
94-455 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY  
WAIPAHAU, HAWAII 96797

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Randell Dunn and I am the principal for Waipahu Intermediate School. Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been supporting our school for the past 11 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in the community and seeds the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have sponsored numerous community-wide events such as the Town Hall on Underage Drinking and Drugs, Waipahu Christmas Parade and Carnival and Waipahu Community Speak Outs. In addition, they have organized community clean ups and pedestrian and traffic awareness sign waving campaigns. These are a few of the programs and services that they provide. Most importantly, they are supportive of our area schools and have been instrumental in deterring gang related activities on our campus in the past.

**We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randell Dunn".

Randell Dunn  
Principal  
Waipahu Intermediate School

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Fay Angeles-Aguda and I am a School Counselor. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Ewa Beach for 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 of the truancy sweeps that they conduct with Campbell High School. The objective of these sweeps is to keep our kids in school and reduce crime in our community. The program continues to be a great resource to the Ewa Beach community, specially for the children in promoting the importance of education and staying in school.

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,  
*Fay Angeles-Aguda*

Fay Angeles-Aguda  
School Counselor  
James Campbell High School  
91-980 North Rd. Ewa Beach HI 96706  
808-305-3625



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

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Ed Oshiro and I am presently a principal at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed in Waipahu and in Ewa for about 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 have seen tremendous improvement in the Kalihi, Waipahu and 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 referees 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 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. I can be reached at 687-9500 or by e-mail at [edward\\_oshiro@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:edward_oshiro@notes.k12.hi.us)**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro  
Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**KALAKAUA MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
821 Kalihi Street • Honolulu, HI 96819-4098  
Ph: 808.832.3130 Fax: 808.832.3140

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: 2/24/2016

To: Lorrie W. Kanno

From: Lorelei Aiwohi

Total Pages: 2 Fax #: 1-800-535-3859

URGENT  CONFIDENTIAL  PLEASE REPLY  OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Lorelei Aiwohi and I am the principal for Kalakaua Middle School. Weed and Seed has been supporting the Honolulu Police Department with support at our school for the past 4 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community and seeded the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering services such as a youth mentoring program, anti-bullying presentations and juvenile law presentations to our students over the past 4 years. We are grateful to have this program at our school as we feel it is important for our students to be educated on issues such as bullying, drugs, gangs, and juvenile laws. In addition, they have supported our Career Days and annual 'Ohana Fair.

**We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.**

Sincerely,

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

Lorelei Aiwohi  
Principal  
Kalakaua Middle School



# Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka  
HB 1580, Weed and Seed Strategy  
Hse FIN, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016 – 3:00 pm  
Agenda #3  
Room 308  
Position: Support

Chair Luke and Members of the House FIN Committee:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—119 years, providing Hawaii consumers with a variety of milk products and juices. Meadow Gold's long history has not come without effort. We continually adapt to our customers' and consumers' ever-changing needs, and we constantly evolve along with our industry, our community and our market. Over the years, this has required that we struggle, tighten our belts, innovate and work extremely hard, making us a better company in the process. The foundation of this work rests with the 330 employees that are committed to providing superior quality products.

We strongly support the program and believe that it is an effective program that does "weed" out criminal elements in targeted communities. Through partnerships with human service organizations as well as businesses and residents, the program plants "seeds" for neighborhood revitalization projects and activities.

We recognize that funding requests are very difficult in these economic times. However, the collaboration model suggested among the county, state, federal agencies and the private sector can only enhance a successful and needed program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at 944-5911.





## McDonald's® of Ewa Beach

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

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**Re: HB1580 - 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 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 have 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 please support HB 1580.

Sincerely,

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

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



February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol, Room 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: H.B. 1580 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Committee Members:

I am Debbie Luning, Community Relations Director for Gentry Homes and a member of the Ewa Weed and Seed Steering Committee. I am writing this letter in **strong support** of H.B. 1580 which appropriates \$400,000 to maintain and expand the Weed and Seed strategy.

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. These programs include youth activities, such as bowling and junior golf, ocean sports, summer culinary arts classes, health and fitness programs, art classes and more. An annual Kupuna Health and Safety Fair sponsored by Ewa Weed and Seed has been a popular event for Ewa/Ewa Beach seniors. Ewa Weed and Seed also established a nonprofit community based development organization which has offered small business training classes and financial literacy classes for the community.

The Weed and Seed program is working; however, we need to continue the efforts to restore neighborhoods and the families that live within. I urge your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

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

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

I am appealing for your support of HB 1580 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....hummm, 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 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



Louis Pohl Gallery  
1142 Bethel St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 521-1812  
[www.louispohlgallery.com](http://www.louispohlgallery.com)

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

I support HB 1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Sandra Pohl and I am a business owner and resident of downtown Chinatown. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Chinatown for 8 years.

Weed and Seed has been an important effort in helping the arts district Chinatown. The program has helped organize residents and businesses to work together by providing resources, knowledge and leadership. Their effort has made a difference.

Weed and Seed is an effective 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 urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

**SANDRA POHL**

Sandra Pohl  
Owner



**First Hawaiian Bank**

**Ward Branch**

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 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.

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 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 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,

Anna M. Kobashigawa  
Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager  
Ph (808) 593-9948  
Fax (808) 593-0945  
email: [akobashigawa@fhb.com](mailto:akobashigawa@fhb.com)

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From: Laurie\_Katagiri-Hoshino/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:52 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: Support on behalf of the Weed and Seed Program (Ewa Beach)

The Weed and Seed Program has been a great asset to the community of Ewa Beach and especially to the well-being of the youth in the community.

I can speak directly in support of the Weed and Seed Program's Junior Golf program. I am the golf coach at James Campbell High School and each year, my team members provide a service by assisting the officers as "junior mentors" at the golf course driving range. Our assistance ranges from showing the young golf hopefuls the proper swing to helping to maintain safety among all the attendees. The high school golfers are also "models" for the young participants and the interaction between the various ages helps build positive relationships that spill over into daily life. My golfers look forward to helping out each year and I encourage them to all participate as it helps each one of them become a better person. They gain self-confidence, they see that their assistance helps the younger ones in a positive way, and they have fun helping the young ones learn the game correctly.

I can also attest to the fact that the summer Culinary program provides a hands-on learning opportunity for high school students. They work with chefs to enrich their knowledge of the culinary world from various kinds of foods to food preparation. They learn the fundamentals of cooking which means also that they must learn to cooperate with one another and support each other. They also create a meal that is served to the business community to share their learning developed during the few weeks with the Weed and Seed volunteers.

Programs such as the Weed and Seed efforts are so necessary to building strong character in youth. These youngsters in turn will be positive contributors to the community in turn. It would be wonderful to see this program continue to be able to provide these growth opportunities for all of the youth in our communities.

Thank you.

Laurie Katagiri-Hoshino  
Curriculum Director: JCHS  
District Director: AVID  
Coordinator: AP, ART, HQ, Title 1  
Site Administrator: ACT, SAT  
Coach: JCHS Golf Team  
Contact: 808.305.3719, Room G205  
Fax: 808.689.1255

"Find someone who needs a helping hand, a word of support, or a good ear and MAKE THEIR DAY."

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February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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.

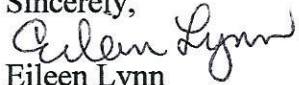
My name is Eileen Lynn and I am 30 year resident of Ewa Beach, homeowner, past Ewa Neighborhood Board Member, Lions Club member, past Hale Pono Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors and ordained Reverend. I have been an active member of Weed and Seed since it's inception in 2002.

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 personally seen improvement in my community and great success stories! Puuloa playground is one of them. It was taken back by its' community from countless crystal meth addicts living in the park. To this day; this park is free and clear of crime. A quiet neighborhood park like it should be. The Weed and Seed initiative is a successful solution to neighborhood crime. I know first hand it works. Crime is not going away! This initiative teaches neighborhoods how to take back their area from criminals by training with community Honolulu Police Department Officers. Learning non confrontational methods/techniques to tackle crime in our neighborhoods; thereby uniting residents, social services, businesses, churches, "the whole community" to work together and avoid becoming victims of crime.

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,  
  
Eileen Lynn  
91-1139 Hanakahi Street  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
Email: [lynnc025@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lynnc025@hawaii.rr.com)  
Phone: (808) 221-3757

Feb 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Clarice Olayvar and I work at Campbell High School and used to live in the Ewa Beach area. I have been involved with Weed and Seed since they started working in our area.

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 our community.

I support Weed and Seed because I have seen a great deal of improvement in our community. Our students would regularly find drug related items or weapons in the park or be afraid to go places because of the drug activity or violence. Of course the drugs and violence would carry over into the school. Since Weed and Seed our school and community are now safer places.

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,

*Clarice Olayvar*

Clarice Olayvar  
2137 Auhuhu St.  
Pearl City , Hawaii 96782  
(808) 456-3049



Date: February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Nellwyne Young and I work in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for over 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 they have been instrumental in helping our truancy rates decline over the years and improve attendance with our quarterly Truancy Sweeps.

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,

Nellwyne Young  
91-980 North Road  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
808-305-3614

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**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



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From: Phyllis\_Wong/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:19 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Subject: RE: HB – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Date: 24 Feb 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Phyllis Wong and I work at James Campbell High School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 12 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....

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,

Phyllis Wong  
91-980 North Road  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
(808)305-3703

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February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Mitchell Tynanes and I live in Ewa Beach my whole life (41 years). I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 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 it plays a vital role in our community. Weed and Seed helps our kids have an safe and productive place to get involved in sports and the community, also a way to communicate with our HPD officers and each other.

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,



Mitchell M. Tynanes  
91-3074 Makalea Loop  
Ewa Beach Hi, 96706  
808-366-5324

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair & Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – 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 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.

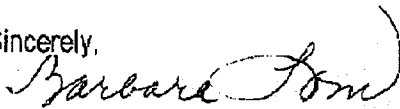
I support Weed and Seed because they have been a key component to reducing crime rates in Waipahu. Their approach of attacking crime through education in the schools and community is one that I am personally involved with as a volunteer.

The Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant Resource 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, Waipahu High School, 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.**

Sincerely,



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

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580 (HSCR 152-16) 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.

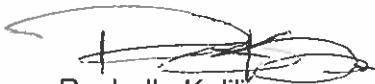
Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

As a parent of 6 children and 4 grandchildren who once lived in Waipahu, my first priority is the safety of my family. Unfortunately, my former home of 22 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.

Sincerely,



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



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:17 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** kamheights@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1580 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM

**HB1580**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha~ My name is Eric Wong and I am a businessman. In the last 2 years, I found myself joining the Weed and Seed, Site 1 Steering Committee. While the last 6 years, Weed and Seed (W&S) is part of the Friends of Chinatown (FOC), a small grass-root, non-profit group collaborating to solve Chinatown's issues, which I am a part of. I humbly ask for your support of HB1580, W&S is a collaborative effort involving our law enforcement, local concerned residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses working to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in our communities while promoting positive programs; "weed out the bad, seed in the good". I know first hand the benefits of having W&S in Chinatown doing collaborative outreach community policing events with citizens and the Honolulu Police Department including graffiti paint outs, traffic awareness sign waving campaigns, workshops to reduce chronic neighborhood issues, etc. W&S partners with FOC to come up with solutions. I strongly believe that W&S is a crucial organizational tool and community resource that needs to be maintained. Your continued support of this important initiative ensures our community leaders and partners continue building a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 Registered 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.**

Sincerely,



Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN

Date:

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 Jonathan Kea and I live/work in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and Seed since it was begun in 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 I have seen the positive results it has had on the 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 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kea  
91-1210 Kaneana Street  
Apt. 9B  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
808-685-4866

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

I am appealing for your support with HB 1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. My name is Malia Ikeda and I am a resident of Ewa Beach for over twenty years. I have been involved with Weed and Seed as a Steering Committee Member for Site III: Ewa-Ewa Beach for almost 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 that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community. I have seen the four strategies of Weed and Seed of Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention/Intervention/Treatment, and Neighborhood Revitalization being implemented with these programs in Ewa Beach:

- Speed control measures/Drive Safe Campaign
- Career Day/Read Aloud with area elementary schools
- Kupuna Resource Fair
- Youth Programs (sports, RAP sessions, keiki ID, Bicycle/Skateboard Safety, Culinary Arts)
- 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 that community leaders and partners continue to build Weed and Seed. This program is integral in our communities.

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

Very Respectfully,

Malia Ikeda

**LATE**

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**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 Kelle Shodahl and I am resident and business owner in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Site III: Ewa-Ewa Beach Weed and Seed for the past 6 years.

I operate a small preschool program in Ewa Beach. Majority of my students are low-moderate income 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: school beautification projects. It was very difficult to get parent participation until Weed and Seed came and 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. I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,  
Kelle Shodahl  
Business Owner and Resident  
91-679 Ft. Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

**LATE**

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**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 Ruth Samuel and I am resident and member of the Site I Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 5 years.

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.

The Weed and Seed program is working; however, we need to continue the efforts to restore neighborhoods and the families that live within. I urge you support of this measure.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Samuel  
Resident  
Retired- State of Hawaii  
Steering Committee Member

February 24, 2016

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB 1580 – 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 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 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.**

Sincerely,  
Corporal Mark Ramos  
808-478-4649

February 24, 2016

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice- Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

My name is Shauna Okuda and I am a member of Site I Weed and Seed Steering Committee and work in the site. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Hawaii for the past 6 years.

I am requesting your support for the submission of the proposal by Empower Oahu to support the collaboration the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach and the Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization.

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 so Weed and Seed can continue its good work in the community.

Sincerely,  
Shauna Okuda  
Steering Committee Chairperson  
Site I  
808-349-1424



February 24, 2016

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

I am appealing for your support HB1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Mary Jean Castillo and I am the Vice Chair for Weed & Seed Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for eleven (11) 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.

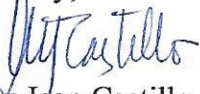
*I support Weed & Seed because it is a holistic approach to treat the epidemic disease in our society.*

Weed and Seed is an important strategy and community resource which has to become **permanently ingrained** in our community. As a public servant and community leader, you have the responsibility to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the community and the people you serve. Therefore your 100% support of this important initiative will show your compassion, dedication and commitment to the people of Hawaii.

Hawaii is still one of the best places to live and visit because we all work together to keep it safe!

**I urge you to support HB1580 so Weed and Seed can continue its mission.**

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Castillo  
Publisher/Founder  
Drug Abuse & Crime Prevention Magazine  
1116 Fort Street Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 979-5490

February 24, 2016

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

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

I am appealing for your support HB1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

My name is Mary Jean Castillo and I am the Vice Chair for Weed & Seed Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for eleven (11) 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 & Seed because it is a holistic approach to treat the epidemic disease in our society.*

Weed and Seed is an important strategy and community resource which has to become **permanently ingrained** in our community. As a public servant and community leader, you have the responsibility to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the community and the people you serve. Therefore your 100% support of this important initiative will show your compassion, dedication and commitment to the people of Hawaii.

Hawaii is still one of the best places to live and visit because we all work together to keep it safe!

**I urge you to support HB1580 so Weed and Seed can continue its mission.**

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Castillo  
Publisher/Founder  
Drug Abuse & Crime Prevention Magazine  
1116 Fort Street Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 979-5490

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Vanessa Ching and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle and have been working and collaborating with Weed and Seed for the past 7 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa Ching  
Student Activity Coordinator  
Ewa Makai Middle  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Adam Kaanaana and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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 truly care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the concerns and needs of individual schools in the Ewa/Ewa Beach area. Whenever student government attends a beach clean-up or community event, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Braceros are there reaching out to the community to show us that they care and educating others on how we can be a more cohesive, community by making thoughtful choices. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety initiative. They coordinated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center and arranged for 300 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted properly after leading a school wide bike and helmet safety assembly with HPD Bike Detail and Honolulu Bike Detail. We really appreciate how much they do for our community not to mention presenting citizenship awards at our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation. They also did a presentation on bullying. This will keep students aware of bullies and what to do if they do get bullied.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Kaanaana  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96789

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Mara Galeai and I am an 8th grade Ewa Makai student. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 2 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Mara Galeai  
8th Grade Leadership Representative

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

& Members of the House Finance Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Emma Tandara and I am a seventh grade Leadership representative and a member of the seventh grade Student Council at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

Weed and Seed is a synergetic group that includes law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has reduced the level of violence and drug related misdemeanor in my community.

I support Weed and Seed because of the true dedication they have to helping our community to make it safer and more delightful for us all. Had it not been for those at Weed and Seed, we wouldn't have had the same support we've had for years. Within the matter of safety, they have assisted us in promoting safe driving with our sign waving outside of our school to help us to "Drive With Aloha." In addition to that, they have also lead numerous bullying and cyberbullying awareness and prevention assemblies that help keep our students safe as well. Another generous act they have done is partnered with Queen's Medical Center to donate three hundred bike and skateboard helmets so that all students who bike or skate to school can be protected.

Also, they've helped us to keep our community as lavish and gorgeous as it is with the beach clean-ups we've been able to organize and participate in with their support. In addition to the reasons I've previously mentioned, they have also aided us in making Ewa Makai a better and more enjoyable school for the students when they volunteered to ref our Intramural games to ensure that they are safe and just.

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

Sincerely,

Emma Tandara  
Kaiheenalu Street

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

& Members of the House Finance Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Jayden Ramos and I am a 8<sup>th</sup> grade leadership representative. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the 3 years.

I support weed and seed because they truly care about our community, the safety of our youth, and our parks and beaches. They are always friendly I support Weed and Seed because they truly care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches. They have developed lasting relationships with at-risk and GT youth through refereeing all of our intramural basketball, volleyball and kickball games. Whenever my student government attends a beach clean-up or community event, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Braceros are there reaching out to the community to show us that they care and educating others on how we can be a more cohesive, community by making thoughtful choices. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. They coordinated efforts with Queens Neuro Trauma Center and arranged for 300 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted properly after leading a school wide bike and helmet safety assembly with HPD Bike Detail and Honolulu Bike Detail. We really appreciate how much they do for our community not to mention presenting citizenship awards at our 8th Grade graduation.

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

Sincerely,

Jayden Ramos  
8<sup>th</sup> grade leadership representative



**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Benjamin Mundon and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 3 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 they care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the concerns and needs of individual schools in the Ewa Beach area. For example, my job requires me to plan school-wide events including events with community members and parents. They are always friendly to the kids at Ewa Makai they have helped made relationships with Students and refereeing all of our intramural basketball, volleyball and kickball games. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety initiative. The Weed and Seed people also helped give over 100 kids bike helmets for their safety and do a lot to keep all the kids at our school.

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

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mundon  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96789

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Caleb Samson and I am an 8th grade student Leadership representative from Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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 believe that Weed and Seed is doing a great job in what they do, and because of what their doing is for the better. Also because of the things they have already done which makes a huge difference in many peoples' lives, and saves them as well. They also support our school in things we do such as sports (Intramural Games), safety assemblies, service learning projects, etc. For sports, they referee the games we play together as a school, and make sure that each and every one of us is safe, but having fun in the process. They've also helped support our school through things such as our bike safety program where we distribute helmets to those students without them, and also rewarded those who do where their helmets to ride to school. Not only have they helped us in our service learning projects such as those, but they've also supported us in our fight against cyber bullying at our school where we teach our students the effects that cyber bullying has on others and why it should be put an end to. Weed and Seed also makes a difference to many people everywhere, which is why I believe Weed and Seed should be supported so they are able to continue supporting people, schools, and kids to keep each and everyone safe.

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

Sincerely,

**Caleb I.A. Samson**  
**Keonekapu Street**  
**Ewa Beach, HI 96706**

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Jake Petrus and I am a 7th grade Leadership Representative. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year. Weed and Seed is a group effort involving police force, citizens, profitless grouping, community groups and private businesses that have helped to prevent crimes and drug deal in my community.

I support Weed and Seed because they truly care about our community, the safety and care for our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the worries and needs of original schools in the Ewa/Ewa Beach area. For example, my job requires me to help with school-wide events including events with community residents and parents. They are always friendly and able to do whatever they can to support our school. They have advanced lasting relationships with at-risk and GT youth through refereeing all of our indigenous basketball, volleyball and kickball games. Whenever we set up assemblies, or school-wide events, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Braceros are there taking care to the community to show us that they care and teaching others on how we can be a more united community by making good choices. We appreciate their achievement to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to correct the actions and behaviors of our students in or outside of school. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety action. They coordinated attempt with us at our school and arranged for about 100 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted accurately in the morning, giving tickets, to keep our students safe, while biking. We really appreciate how much they do for our school, and community.

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

Sincerely,

Jake Petrus  
7th grade Leadership representative

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Matthew Favela and I am 12 years old. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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.

They really mean a lot to me. They always support us at our assemblies, intramurals and anything that we need help with.

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

Sincerely,  
Matthew Favela

February 23, 2016

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Jan Nishihira. I am a registered nurse working in the Waipahu community and a member of the Waipahu Community Coalition. I am appealing for your support HB1580 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.**

Sincerely,



Jan Nishihira, RN BSN

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Vanessa Ching and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle and have been working and collaborating with Weed and Seed for the past 7 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa Ching  
Student Activity Coordinator  
Ewa Makai Middle  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

& Members of the House Finance Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Jayden Ramos and I am a 8<sup>th</sup> grade leadership representative. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the 3 years.

I support weed and seed because they truly care about our community, the safety of our youth, and our parks and beaches. They are always friendly I support Weed and Seed because they truly care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches. They have developed lasting relationships with at-risk and GT youth through refereeing all of our intramural basketball, volleyball and kickball games. Whenever my student government attends a beach clean-up or community event, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Braceros are there reaching out to the community to show us that they care and educating others on how we can be a more cohesive, community by making thoughtful choices. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. They coordinated efforts with Queens Neuro Trauma Center and arranged for 300 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted properly after leading a school wide bike and helmet safety assembly with HPD Bike Detail and Honolulu Bike Detail. We really appreciate how much they do for our community not to mention presenting citizenship awards at our 8th Grade graduation.

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

Sincerely,

Jayden Ramos  
8<sup>th</sup> grade leadership representative



**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Matthew Favela and I am 12 years old. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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.

They really mean a lot to me. They always support us at our assemblies, intramurals and anything that we need help with.

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

Sincerely,  
Matthew Favela

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

& Members of the House Finance Committee

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Emma Tandara and I am a seventh grade Leadership representative and a member of the seventh grade Student Council at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

Weed and Seed is a synergetic group that includes law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that has reduced the level of violence and drug related misdemeanor in my community.

I support Weed and Seed because of the true dedication they have to helping our community to make it safer and more delightful for us all. Had it not been for those at Weed and Seed, we wouldn't have had the same support we've had for years. Within the matter of safety, they have assisted us in promoting safe driving with our sign waving outside of our school to help us to "Drive With Aloha." In addition to that, they have also lead numerous bullying and cyberbullying awareness and prevention assemblies that help keep our students safe as well. Another generous act they have done is partnered with Queen's Medical Center to donate three hundred bike and skateboard helmets so that all students who bike or skate to school can be protected.

Also, they've helped us to keep our community as lavish and gorgeous as it is with the beach clean-ups we've been able to organize and participate in with their support. In addition to the reasons I've previously mentioned, they have also aided us in making Ewa Makai a better and more enjoyable school for the students when they volunteered to ref our Intramural games to ensure that they are safe and just.

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

Sincerely,

Emma Tandara  
Kaiheenalua Street

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Mara Galeai and I am an 8th grade Ewa Makai student. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 2 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Mara Galeai  
8th Grade Leadership Representative

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Mara Galeai and I am an 8th grade Ewa Makai student. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 2 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Mara Galeai  
8th Grade Leadership Representative



The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Caleb Samson and I am an 8th grade student Leadership representative from Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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 believe that Weed and Seed is doing a great job in what they do, and because of what their doing is for the better. Also because of the things they have already done which makes a huge difference in many peoples' lives, and saves them as well. They also support our school in things we do such as sports (Intramural Games), safety assemblies, service learning projects, etc. For sports, they referee the games we play together as a school, and make sure that each and every one of us is safe, but having fun in the process. They've also helped support our school through things such as our bike safety program where we distribute helmets to those students without them, and also rewarded those who do where their helmets to ride to school. Not only have they helped us in our service learning projects such as those, but they've also supported us in our fight against cyber bullying at our school where we teach our students the effects that cyber bullying has on others and why it should be put an end to. Weed and Seed also makes a difference to many people everywhere, which is why I believe Weed and Seed should be supported so they are able to continue supporting people, schools, and kids to keep each and everyone safe.

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

Sincerely,

**Caleb I.A. Samson**  
**Keonekapu Street**  
**Ewa Beach, HI 96706**



The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Adam Kaanaana and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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 truly care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the concerns and needs of individual schools in the Ewa/Ewa Beach area. Whenever student government attends a beach clean-up or community event, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Bracerros are there reaching out to the community to show us that they care and educating others on how we can be a more cohesive, community by making thoughtful choices. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety initiative. They coordinated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center and arranged for 300 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted properly after leading a school wide bike and helmet safety assembly with HPD Bike Detail and Honolulu Bike Detail. We really appreciate how much they do for our community not to mention presenting citizenship awards at our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation. They also did a presentation on bullying. This will keep students aware of bullies and what to do if they do get bullied.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Kaanaana  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96789

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Adam Kaanaana and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past year.

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 truly care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the concerns and needs of individual schools in the Ewa/Ewa Beach area. Whenever student government attends a beach clean-up or community event, the Weed and Seed officers along with coordinator Gale Braceros are there reaching out to the community to show us that they care and educating others on how we can be a more cohesive, community by making thoughtful choices. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety initiative. They coordinated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center and arranged for 300 bike and skate helmets and stickers to be distributed and fitted properly after leading a school wide bike and helmet safety assembly with HPD Bike Detail and Honolulu Bike Detail. We really appreciate how much they do for our community not to mention presenting citizenship awards at our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation. They also did a presentation on bullying. This will keep students aware of bullies and what to do if they do get bullied.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Kaanaana  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96789

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB – 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 Benjamin Mundon and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 3 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 they care about our community, the safety and well-being of our youth, our parks and beaches in addition to the concerns and needs of individual schools in the Ewa Beach area. For example, my job requires me to plan school-wide events including events with community members and parents. They are always friendly to the kids at Ewa Makai they have helped made relationships with Students and refereeing all of our intramural basketball, volleyball and kickball games. We appreciate their efforts to support our students and staff by speaking at our school wide assemblies to improve the behaviors of our students beyond the walls of Ewa Makai Middle. In addition Weed and Seed Officers Corporal Ramos and Officer Pagan have been really supportive regarding our Bike and Skate helmet Safety initiative. The Weed and Seed people also helped give over 100 kids bike helmets for their safety and do a lot to keep all the kids at our school.

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

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mundon  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96789



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 8:36 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: mailek@weedandseedhi.org  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1580 on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM\*



**HB1580**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maile Kanemaru	Weed and Seed	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:  
RE: HB – 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 Vanessa Ching and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle and have been working and collaborating with Weed and Seed for the past 7 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 is a great organization that helps enforce the law, but at the same time they collaborate with residents, community members, and other non-profits that have similar missions, which is to reduce crime in our society. I support Weed and Seed because the members/officers are not only law enforcers, but also educators and friendly people to work with. With events that we plan such as assemblies, or our intramural sports, Weed and Seed officers are always kind enough to take the time and attend to support our school. They help referee our team bonding intramural sports, and have taught our school about bike and skateboard safety. In addition to bike and skateboard safety, Weed and Seed collaborated with Queens Neuro Trauma Center, and we received 300 bike and skateboard helmets that we gave to students that did not own a helmet. We had two occasions where we distributed the helmets and Weed and Seed officers are always there helping us. They have also lead school assemblies about online safety and how to prevent cyber bullying. Often times, they also come to our school in the morning and after school for sign waving, to promote safe driving. Also, at the end of the school year we have our 8th grade Rites of Passage and Weed and Seed is generous enough to give an award at our ceremony that promotes good citizenship. We really appreciate everything that Weed and Seed does for us, and the rest of the community.

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

Sincerely,

Vanessa Ching  
Student Activity Coordinator  
Ewa Makai Middle  
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



**LATE**

Date:

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 \_\_\_Jeff Mull\_\_\_ and I live/work in \_\_\_Chinatown\_\_\_\_\_. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for \_\_4 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 tremendous work they do to help keep Chinatown clean.

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,

Jeff Mull  
1110 Nuuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
808.651.7061

**LATE**

Date:

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: HB – 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 \_\_\_Jeff Mull\_\_\_ and I live/work in \_\_\_\_\_Chinatown\_\_\_\_\_. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for \_\_4 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 tremendous work they do to help keep Chinatown clean.

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,

Jeff Mull  
1110 Nuuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
808.651.7061

---

*From:* Lorrie Kanno <lwkanno@yahoo.com>  
*Sent:* Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:47 PM  
*To:* FINTestimony  
*Subject:* Testimony in support of HB1580  
*Attachments:* HB1580\_Kaiulani.pdf



Submitting for Principal Puleasi



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KA'IULANI SCHOOL  
783 NORTH KING STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**LATE**

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Jill Puleasi and I am the principal for Kaiulani Elementary School. Weed and Seed has been supporting the Honolulu Police Department with a youth mentoring program at our school for the past 2 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in our community and seeded the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering the Real And Powerful (RAP) program to our fifth grade students for the past 2 years. This youth mentoring program challenges our students to make better choices and to take responsibility for their actions. We are grateful to have this program at our school as we feel it is important for our students to be educated on issues such as bullying, self-identity, drugs, gangs, and juvenile laws. Our students have also benefitted from the educational outings that they have been involved in as it has provided them with a greater appreciation for our community and island home.

**We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Puleasi".

Jill Puleasi  
Principal  
Kaiulani Elementary School

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PU'UHALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
345 PU'UHALE ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96819

**LATE**

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 [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 Arnie Kikkawa and I am the principal for Puuhale Elementary School. Weed and Seed has been supporting the Honolulu Police Department with a youth mentoring program at our school for the past 2 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community and seeded the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering the Real And Powerful (RAP) program to our fifth grade students for the past 2 years. This youth mentoring program challenges our students to make better choices and to take responsibility for their actions. We are grateful to have this program at our school as we feel it is important for our students to be educated on issues such as bullying, self-identity, drugs, gangs, and juvenile laws. Our students have also benefitted from the educational outings that they have been involved in as it has provided them with a greater appreciation for our community and island home.

**We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arnie Kikkawa".

Arnie Kikkawa  
Principal  
Puuhale Elementary School





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA'EWAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
1929 KAM IV ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-2697

**LATE**

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Joseph Passantino and I am the vice principal for Kaewai Elementary School. Weed and Seed has been supporting the Honolulu Police Department with a youth mentoring program at our school for the past 4 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community and seeded the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering the Real And Powerful (RAP) program to our fifth grade students for the past 4 years. This youth mentoring program challenges our students to make better choices and to take responsibility for their actions. We are grateful to have this program at our school as we feel it is important for our students to be educated on issues such as bullying, self-identity, drugs, gangs, and juvenile laws. Our students have also benefitted from the educational outings that they have been involved in as it has provided them with a greater appreciation for our community and island home.

We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Passantino".

Joseph Passantino  
Vice Principal  
Kaewai Elementary School



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
GOVERNOR SANFORD B. DOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1803 KAM IV ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96819

**LATE**

February 23, 2016

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
& Members of the House Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 [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 Mavis Tasaka and I am the principal for Dole Middle School. Weed and Seed has been supporting the Honolulu Police Department with support at our school for the past 4 years.

I am appealing for your support HB1580 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 has helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community and seeded the community with positive activities and education.

Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering services such as a youth mentoring program, anti-bullying presentations and juvenile law presentations to our students over the past 4 years. We are grateful to have this program at our school as we feel it is important for our students to be educated on issues such as bullying, drugs, gangs, and juvenile laws.

In addition, they have been available to us whenever we ran into any kind of safety issues on campus. We are very fortunate to have this kind of support for our students and school.

**We urge you to demonstrate your support of Weed and Seed by supporting HB1580.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mavis Tasaka".

Mavis Tasaka  
Principal  
Dole Middle School