



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

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

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2016

TIME: 2:01 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads 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 request the passage of this measure with the suggested amendments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EWA MAKAI MIDDLE SCHOOL
91-6291 KAPOLEI PARKWAY
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Ed Oshiro and I am the former Principal of Waipahu Intermediate and now the Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed 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 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!

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Oshiro".

Ed Oshiro
Principal of Ewa Makai Middle School

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – LEEWARD DISTRICT
ILIMA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
81-884 FORT WEAVER ROAD
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY


I am appealing for your support of HB1580 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Karen K. Shinjo and I am a Vice-Principal at Ilima Intermediate School in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and Seed since 2012 when I arrived here at Ilima. However, Weed and Seed has partnered with Ilima Intermediate for more than 10 years.

The Weed and Seed officers have been an integral part of our Ilima Family and have provided us with additional resources that otherwise would not have been available to our school. They are always able and willing to help us with our various activities such as:

- Officiating our school's intramural activities. The intramural sports include flag football, basketball, volleyball and soccer. The officers referee the activities.
- Judging other activities (door contests, cheering contests, poster contests).
- Chaperoning after school activities (school dances, socials).
- Assisting with evacuation drills.
- Providing our students with opportunities for community service projects (beach and road clean-up; sign waving (Drive Safe 4 Ewa).

More importantly, the Weed and Seed officers are building relationships with students through their participation in the activities. These interactions with our students serve as an inspiration to "stay on the right path." Weed and Seed is an important community resource that needs to be continued. We ask for your support of this crucial program to ensure that our youth are provided opportunities inside and outside of the school setting and that we be allowed to continue our partnership with them in the hope of creating a stronger Ewa Beach community. I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,


Karen K. Shinjo
Vice Principal

LATE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Shely Chang and I am a School Counselor at Kaimiloa Elementary in Ewa Beach. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Ewa/Ewa Beach for 9 years.

Our school has had many events which our Weed and Seed officers come to and support such as our annual Career and College Day and Drama night. They have also been helpful within our community with helping us with safety issues and concerns. Their presence in our community is instrumental in keeping Ewa/Ewa Beach a safe place to live.

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

Shely Chang
School Counselor
Kaimiloa Elementary School



HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 1580 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY
Hearing: January 28, 2016, 2:01 p.m., room 325

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

Respectfully, I urge you to support HB1580. Thank you for your consideration

Mahalo,

Sharene Saito Tam
Vice President
Haseko Development, Inc.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
HB 1580, Weed and Seed Strategy
Hse JUD, Thursday, January 28, 2016 – 2:01 pm
Room 325
Position: Support

Chair Rhoads and Members of the House JUD 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

LATE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 306
Honolulu, HI 96813

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,

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



January 28, 2016

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Chair Rhoads 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Luning'.

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

MERIDIAN PACIFIC
94-050 Farrington Hwy., Suite E1-3
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



Office 808-677-6700 Fax 808-671-2427
meridianpacifictd.com

LATE

FAX

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

To:
STATE CAPITOL
CONFERENCE ROOM 325
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96813

From: JaNay Wyss

Fax: (808) 586-6531

Pages: 6 including cover

Phone:

Re: NOTICE OF HEARING
JANUARY 28, 2016
Time: 2:01 pm
Conference Room 325

HB1580

Comments:

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MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoades, Chair
 The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
 And Members of the House Committee of Judiciary State Capitol
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB1580 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Dear Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the 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 & 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.

Over the past 4 years being a part of the Waipahu community, I have seen and experienced much improvement as a result of the direct involvement and tireless hours that the Weed and Seed officers and staff have devoted into educating and mentoring our keiki, young adults, and parents to seek the right choices in creating better lives for themselves. Weed and Seed has proven to be a success with the community by creating community awareness, decreasing crime, and by providing beautification projects in 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.

Please support HB1580

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN PACIFIC
 Agent for Waipahu, LLC



JaNay Wyss
 Property Manager

MERIDIAN PACIFIC, LTD.
 1801 Tiburon Boulevard, Suite 200
 Tiburon, CA 94920
 415/779-5330 fax: 415/779-5584

MERIDIAN PACIFIC
 94-050 Farrington Highway, Suite 21-3
 Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
 808/677-6700 fax: 808/671-2427

www.meridianpacificld.com

REAL ESTATE	Lenders	Principals/Developers
	Mortgage Brokers	Asset Managers
	Investment Bankers	Fund Advisors



First Hawaiian Bank

Ward Branch

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support for 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 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

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna M. Kobashigawa'.

Anna M. Kobashigawa
Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager

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



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

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes and Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE: 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 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 urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

SANDRA POHL

Sandra Pohl
Owner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 8:25 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mailek@weedandseedhi.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1580 on Jan 28, 2016 14:01PM*

HB1580

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for JUD on Jan 28, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Kanemaru	Weed and Seed	Support	Yes

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.

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January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am urging 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.

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 programs of Weed and Seed. Their involvement in the community is integral and I kindly ask you for your support with HB1580.

Sincerely,



Malia Ikeda
Ewa Beach resident, home-based business owner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 8:26 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kamheights@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1580 on Jan 28, 2016 14:01PM

HB1580

Submitted on: 1/27/2016

Testimony for JUD on Jan 28, 2016 14:01PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Aloha~ My name is Eric Wong and I am a small businessman. In the last 2.5 years, I found myself joining the Weed and Seed, Site 1 Steering Committee. While the last 6.5 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 also a part of. I thank you for proposing and ask for your continued support of HB1580 and the collaboration efforts of W&S programs active and on going in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach. 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 especially drug abuse resulting in much of today's homelessness and petty crimes while growing stronger, healthier 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

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Vanessa Ching and I am the Student Activity Coordinator at Ewa Makai Middle School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 6 years.

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

I support Weed and Seed because 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. For example, my job requires me to plan school-wide events including events with community members and parents. They are always friendly and able to do whatever they can to support our school. 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. 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 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 please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Ching
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway
Ewa Beach, HI 96789

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Portia Burgess and I am a resident of Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed plays a vital role in enhancing the community and encouraging positive and safe environments for youths and families. Any benefit to Weed and Seed is a benefit to our community, and I am strongly in support of sustaining this program.

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Portia Burgess". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Portia Burgess

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Lisa Enanoria and I am an Ewa Beach Resident. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for almost 10 years and have seen the positive impact that they have for our community.

The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in our community. It's also an important organizational tool and community resource that provides programs for our keiki and elderly kupuna. 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 HB1580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Enanoria". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Enanoria

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 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

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580 – RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

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

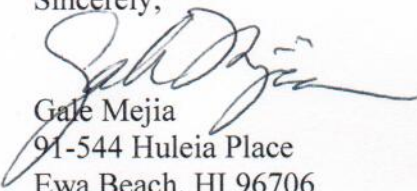
Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

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

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 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 a 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, has been an interesting and challenging experience. . The ability to provide higher bail amounts for individuals that are arrested in the Weed and Seed site has provided less opportunity for the same offenders to continue to repeat their crimes in the area. We have been able to send a message to individuals who think about committing crimes in the area, that we will not stand by and let you offend over and over again.

With the increase 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 first hand 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 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 do good. Again,

I urge you to please support HB1580 and keep these programs alive for the communities that they serve and especially the youth.

Sincerely,

Mark Ramos
Police Corporal, Honolulu Police Department

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 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
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

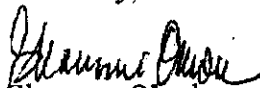
RE: HB1580- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

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 Shaunna Okuda and I am a community volunteer, the chairperson of Site I Steering Committee and work in the site. I have been involved with Weed and Seed of the past 6 years.

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.

I urge you to please support HB1580. We need Weed and Seed to continue working in our designates.

Sincerely,



Shaunna Okuda

Chairperson
Site I

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Stephen Ing and I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed Ewa for the past twelve years.

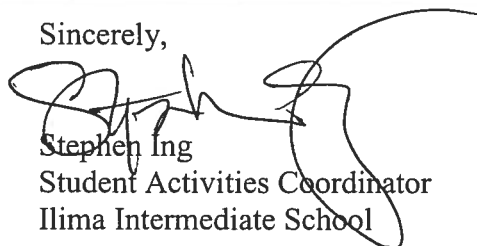
The Weed and Seed program has provided Ilima Intermediate School with additional resources that otherwise would not have been available to our school. They are always able and willing to help with various things.

- Officiate our school's intramural activities. The activities range from flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and other sports. The officers referee the activities.
- Judge other activities from door contests, cheering contests, poster contests.
- Chaperone after school activities (school dances, socials).
- Assist with evacuation drills.
- Provided our students with opportunities for community service
 - beach clean-up, road clean-up
 - Sign waving (Drive Safe 4 Ewa)

While providing their assistance in these activities, they were constantly building relationships with the adults on campus and more importantly, the students here at our school. These positive relationships can go a long way in the development of our young adolescents in helping them to stay on the right path. Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,



Stephen Ing
Student Activities Coordinator
Ilima Intermediate School

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair The Honorable

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Zariah Lamar and I am the 8th grade Student Body Representative. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 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.

I support Weed and Seed because they help us with our school. For example, they help us referee the intramurals. In other words they are able to watch the students and the game. Without the referee's we would have a difficult time running the intramurals. In other words, they help with community service. For another example they come to our beach clean up's out in the sun. They are able to help keep our community clean. Last they have helped us with the bike safety assembly. They have helped us increase the student's safety while riding bikes. That shows how much they do care about the students and their safety. The officers are able to influence the student's to improve on certain things by their actions.

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely, Zariah Lamar Ala Loa St.

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Dolores (Dee) Gettle and I am a resident of Ewa Beach for 31 years and work in the Ewa Beach community for 26 years. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 10 years.

I can't express the positive impact Weed and Seed has been in our community. I humbly ask for your support to help sustain this program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana- Sheridan, Waipahu and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

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

I support Weed and Seed, not only that I am a homeowner/resident and an employee for their Ewa Beach community. I have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren that need to have a safe community to live in. I've seen this community grow from plantation fields into a suburb community. Which means we are a fast growing community with many changes. CHANGES come with a large population and some negative activity. Weed and Seed has given our community hope for the future of our young youths, and we all know our young needs positive reinforcements.

I urge you to please support HB 1580.

Sincerely,



Dolores (Dee) Gettle
Counselor Aide
Resident

January 26, 2016

LATE

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB1580- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

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I can't express the positive impact Weed and Seed has been in our community. I humbly ask for your support to help sustain the program in Kalihi-Palama-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, not only that I'm a home owner / resident and an employee for the Ewa Beach community I have children, grand-child and great grand-children that need to have a safe community to live in. I've seen this community grow from plantation fields into a suburb community. Which means we are a fast growing community with many changes. CHANGES, comes with a large population and some negative activity. Weed and Seed has given our community hope for the future of our young youths, and we all know our young needs positive reinforcements.

I urge you to please support HB1580.

Sincerely,
Dolores (Dee) Gettle, Counselors Aide



LATE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura 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 Public Health Nurse and serve on the Board of the Waipahu Community Coalition.

- I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed, because I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate and high school students to combat and prevent substance abuse, truancy and gang involvement. They've organized graffiti paint outs and participated in beautification projects. They've assisted in creating neighborhood security watches in the most at-risk neighborhoods and have empowered the residents to report illegal activities promptly.
- They work with the 6th 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 lead 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

LATE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

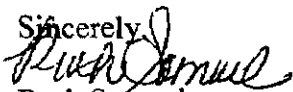
RE: HB1580- RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

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 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