

LATE

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Sam Slom, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee Members:

RE: HB2486 HD3 - RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Establishing a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to Increase the number of Jobs for businesses to establish themselves or relocate to the Kapolei region

On behalf of myself and my family, I am writing in support of HB2486 HD3 with comment. This bill will establish a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to increase the number of jobs for new businesses or businesses that wish to relocate to the Kapolei region. I would like to offer the following comment for consideration:

When we moved to Kapolei in 2003 I worked downtown for a bank. It would sometimes take me about an hour to get to work. Now, in 2016, I work at Leeward Community College in Pearl City and it often takes me an hour to get to work, just 11 miles from home. In fact 45 minutes is the norm with all of the rail and road construction. With thousands of additional homes being built, this situation will only worsen. This is the sad situation that Kapolei residents are faced with.

Like the rail project, which is an ongoing investment, the investment in Kapolei which began decades ago should be optimized. Now is the time for change. HB2486 HD3 states that a qualified business of the Kapolei Jobs Initiative must be participating in the State Enterprise Zone Program. The Kapolei Jobs Initiative established with its own geographic area in the Kapolei Region will realize the State's long standing policy of redirecting growth to the second urban core, creating jobs in the Kapolei region (hopefully better paying jobs) and reducing traffic congestion. More jobs in the Kapolei Region are needed to keep pace with Kapolei's population growth. If a qualified business must be participating in the Enterprise Zone, the intent of the Initiative to be designated in the Kapolei Region to accomplish this objective would be negated. Kapolei Jobs Initiative participants should not be participating in the Statewide Enterprise Zone Program.

It is a matter of equity. The Kapolei Region carries the burdens of undesirable facilities that other areas are not eager to have. Residents of West Oahu endure hours of traffic congestion caused by the number of people who still have to commute to downtown Honolulu for work every day. Job creation in the Kapolei region is a quality – of - life, community-building concern affecting employers and employees alike.

I respectfully ask you to support this bill that will bring jobs to the Kapolei region affecting the lives of many and will mitigate the negative results of the policy growth to Kapolei.

Sincerely,


Cynthia L. J. Spencer

Instructor in Management, Leeward CC

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

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and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee Members:

RE: HB2486 HD3 - RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Establishing a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to Increase the number of Jobs for businesses to establish themselves or relocate to the Kapolei region

Aloha, my name is **Cedric Gates** and I am writing **in support** of HB2486 HD3 with comment. This bill will establish a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to increase the number of jobs for businesses to establish themselves or relocate to the Kapolei region. The Kapolei Jobs Initiative established with its own geographic area in the Kapolei Region will realize the State's long standing policy of redirecting growth to the second urban core, creating jobs in the Kapolei region and reducing traffic congestion. More jobs in the Kapolei Region are needed to keep pace with Kapolei's population growth.

It is a matter of equity. The Kapolei Region carries the burdens of a landfill, industrial facilities and power generation plants in their backyard, all burdens other areas are not eager to have. Residents of West Oahu endure hours of traffic congestion caused by the number of people who still have to commute to downtown Honolulu for work every day. Job creation in the Kapolei region is a quality-of-life, community-building concern affecting employers and employees alike.

I would like to offer the following comment for consideration:

HB2486 HD3 states that a qualified business of the Kapolei Jobs Initiative must be participating in the State Enterprise Zone Program. If a qualified business must be participating in the Enterprise Zone, the intent of the Initiative to be designated in the Kapolei Region to accomplish this objective would be negated. Kapolei Jobs Initiative participants should not be participating in the Statewide Enterprise Zone Program.

I respectfully ask you to support this bill that will bring jobs to the Kapolei region affecting the lives of many and will mitigate the negative results of the policy growth to Kapolei.

Sincerely,

Cedric Gates

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and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
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Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom and Committee Members:

RE: HB2486, HD3 – RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Establishing a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to Increase the number of Jobs for businesses to establish themselves or relocate to the Kapolei region

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce respectfully submits this testimony in **strong support** of HB2486, HD3 with comment. This bill will establish a Kapolei Jobs Initiative to increase the number of jobs for businesses to establish themselves or relocate to the Kapolei region. The Kapolei Jobs Initiative established with its own geographic area in the Kapolei Region will realize the State's long standing policy of redirecting growth to the second urban core, creating jobs in the Kapolei region and reducing traffic congestion. More jobs in the Kapolei Region are needed to keep pace with Kapolei's population growth.

It is a matter of equity. The Kapolei Region carries the burdens of a landfill, industrial facilities and power generation plants in their backyard, all burdens other areas are not eager to have. Residents of West Oahu endure hours of traffic congestion caused by the number of people who still have to commute to downtown Honolulu for work every day. Job creation in the Kapolei region is a quality-of-life, community-building concern affecting employers and employees alike.

HB2486 HD3 states that a qualified business of the Kapolei Jobs Initiative must be participating in the State Enterprise Zone Program. If a qualified business must be participating in the Enterprise Zone, the intent of the Initiative to be designated in the Kapolei Region to accomplish this objective would be negated. We respectfully submit the proposed amendment to address our comment regarding the definition of a qualified business:

For the purposes of this chapter, a "qualified business" means a business that:

- (1) Establishes or relocates itself within the designated geographic area;
- (2) Has a minimum of 10 full-time employees (if locating from outside the designated geographic area) working at the establishment in the designated geographic area; or has a net gain of 10 full-time employees (if already established in the designated geographic area and is expanding or building a new establishment in the same area)
- (3) Provides gross annual salaries of \$25,000 or more to at least half of its employees in that establishment.
- (4) Earns at least half of its gross annual revenue from its establishment in the designated geographic area
- (5) Is not participating in the state enterprise zone program pursuant to chapter 209E
- (6) Excludes retail, except when greater than 50% of sales are to Hawaii general excise tax licensees (i.e. business-to-business).

We respectfully ask you to support this bill that will bring jobs to the Kapolei region affecting the lives of many and will mitigate the negative results of the policy growth to Kapolei.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kiran Polk".

Kiran Polk
Executive Director