



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2051, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or  
Julie Ebato, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division  
Administrator

---

Chair Taniguchi 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.

In the last grant, the Weed and Seed Project provided community policing strategies; prevention, intervention and treatment activities; and neighborhood restoration. The Weed and Seed Project included and benefited youth, seniors, and neighborhoods in the Weed and Seed sites: Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown, Ewa-Ewa Beach, and Waipahu. This includes but is not limited to: 22 community clean up or graffiti paint outs, 12 community traffic awareness campaigns, 36 citizen patrol and neighborhood security watch groups or training, 146 youths receiving back to school supplies, 18 senior safety presentations (for 488 seniors), 23 Na Alakai Youth Leadership activities (for 445 youth), 2 Town Hall meetings on underaged drinking and drug use (150 attendees), monthly steering committee meetings focused on capacity building and monitoring ongoing projects, and participation in the Celebrate Safe Communities event at the Leeward Community College.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

**HB-2051-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 8:34:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/13/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebeca Zamora	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2051-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:22:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/13/2018 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2051-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 4:54:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/13/2018 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard K. Minatoya	Testifying for Maui Department of the Prosecuting Attorney	Support	No

Comments:

he Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS SB 2051, HD 1 - Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy. This measure will appropriate funds for much needed grants to maintain the Weed and Seed strategy. The Department requests that this measure be PASSED.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 2051.HD1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY**

My name is Florence Nakakuni and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 9 years. I am requesting your support of HB 2051. HD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, Ewa and Ewa Beach.

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

I support Weed and Seed because I have seen it work—here are a few examples—kids getting to know police officers as mentors, coaches, teachers—and this results in building community trust with law enforcement which helps the entire community. I have seen middle and high school students enjoy their summer culinary class at Campbell High School which is sponsored by Weed and Seed and its many partners. In fact, the Weed and Seed Executive Director was instrumental in obtaining the services of a chef from Roy's Restaurant in Ko Olina who has helped with the class for a number of years. I have seen kupuna enjoy the health and safety programs sponsored by Weed and Seed. I have seen the joy on the faces of children during Shop with a Cop programs during the holidays. There's even a program for Kupuna! Weed and Seed also participates in community clean ups, graffiti removal and citizens patrols. So, as you can see, Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued support of this 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 continue supporting Weed and Seed by supporting HB 2051.HD1 so that we can continue to work with our many partners, to work to ensure the health and safety for those who live, work or worship in these communities.

Sincerely,

  
Florence Nakakuni

246 Halemaumau Street  
Honolulu, HI 96821