



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

**LATE**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

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

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 3, 2018

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information contact Julie Ebato,  
Phone No. 587-7442)

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Chair Dela Cruz 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.

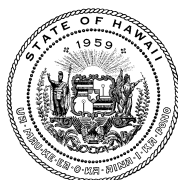
With respect to section 2, we recommend the following, "SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$---- or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to Weed and Seed Hawaii, Inc., to maintain the weed and seed program" as stated in the Senate Bill No. 2852, Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy.

In the last grant, the Department of the Attorney General was designated the expending agency. The grant supported the Weed and Seed Project's 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. The project 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 with the recommended amendments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

**LATE**

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**WAIPAHU HIGH SCHOOL**  
94-1211 FARRINGTON HIGHWAY  
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keith Hayashi and I am the principal at Waipahu High School. I was a vice-principal at Waipahu High School when our partnership with the Weed and Seed program began sixteen years ago. Since then, I have been fortunate to have continued my relationship with the Weed and Seed program as the principal of Waipahu Elementary School, the Complex Area Superintendent of the Waipahu and Pearl City Complex Areas, and currently as the principal of Waipahu High School. The Weed and Seed program in Waipahu truly provides transformational support to not only our schools, but to the entire community that it serves.

I am writing in support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 our community.

The Waipahu Weed and Seed (WWS) has made a significant difference at Waipahu High School through establishing strong and collaborative partnerships with students, parents, and faculty members. The presence and proactive interaction of the WWS personnel at school events, has helped to positively change the culture and climate of Waipahu High School. WWS personnel assist our students in reflecting on positive choices, build trusting and lasting relationships, and supporting students and student organizations.

The WWS program is also one of the primary supporters of Waipahu High School's Academy of Professional and Public Services, as well as our Academy of Law and Justice. WWS staff was instrumental in the creation of Waipahu High School's Na Alaka'i Student Organization, which organizes and implements school-wide campaigns to provide students with strong voices and leadership skills to address school and community issues.

Weed and Seed is a critically important community resource. I ask for your support for Weed and Seed to ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build strong networks of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

**I urge you to support Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in our communities.**

Sincerely,

Keith Hayashi  
Principal

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE 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 16 years and currently serve on its Steering Committee.

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 because they have been a key component to reducing crime rates in Waipahu. Their approach of attacking crime through prevention via education in the schools and community is one that I am personally involved with as a volunteer.

The Waipahu Safe Haven Computer Center was created as a way for students to complete their homework with assistance from volunteer tutors in the community. Its creation was supported by Weed & Seed through collaboration with Waipahu Community Coalition, Parents and Children Together, Hoomaka Hou Learning Center, the DOE's ESL Leeward District, Americorp/Vista, and the community members. It is housed in a Weed & Seed office in the community in the Pupuole area. In addition to student education, the center also provides education for limited English speaking adults through adult education as well as digital literacy in hopes of getting them jobs. Additionally, it also 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 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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,



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

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is John Kauwenaole. I am a resident of Waipahu, former Waipahu business owner and retired Honolulu Police Department Sergeant.

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 am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed because I have seen their diligent efforts to improve the targeted communities. I was the original HPD Sergeant assigned to work with Weed & Seed when it was first introduced to Hawai'i. During my tenure, we were successful in decreasing criminal activity in Chinatown and Kalihi. Through the relationships that we developed with the community, we were also successful at identifying gang members and getting the residents to take back their neighborhoods.

As a resident and former business owner in Waipahu, I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource which needs to be continued. Your continued support 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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

John Kauwenaole  
Waipahu HI 96797

April 3, 2018

**LATE**

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is **Deanna Espinas, Friends of the Waipahu Cultural Garden Park dba as Hawaii's Plantation Village**

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 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.

Weed and Seed is an important 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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas  
[espihawaii@juno.com](mailto:espihawaii@juno.com)



**LATE**

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

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 nine years.

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

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

As a parent-community facilitator at an area elementary school, I have seen the improvement in the way our students/children relate to police officers. In the past, many of our children viewed officers as aggressive people who only caused harm to their 'ohana. Through the partnerships that the Weed & 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.

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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

Rochelle Kalili  
85-203 McArthur Street  
Waianae HI 96792



First Hawaiian Bank

Ward Branch

April 2, 2018

**LATE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Finance Committee  
State Capitol Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB 2051 HD 1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Anna Kobashigawa and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 6 years.

I am appealing for your support of HB 2051 HD 1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 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.

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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB 2051 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

Anna M. Kobashigawa  
Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager  
P (808) 593-9948  
Email: [akobashigawa@fhb.com](mailto:akobashigawa@fhb.com)

April 2, 2018

**LATE**

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Mitchell Tynanes Chair of the Ewa Neighborhood Board, President of the Pig Hunters Association of Oahu, BOD for the Gentry Association, Chair of Community Restoration for the Ewa Beach Lions Club Foundation, BOD James Campbell High School Alumni Foundation, President of the TCLT Association, and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for many years.

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 because it plays a vital role in the development of upstanding youths in our community. Its helps bridge the gap between HPD and our keikis. Builds a long lasting relationship that helps the community grow.

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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

Mitchell M Tynanes  
91-3074 Makalea Loop  
Ewa Beach Hi 96706

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
& Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Valerie Hudcovic, and I am a school social worker with the Department of Education, Leeward District. I primarily provide services to the schools in the Waipahu complex and work with school personnel, students and their families. I also utilize the expertise and collaborate with the Weed and Seed personnel in the Waipahu area.

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed 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 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.

Weed and Seed is an important 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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valerie Hudcovic". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Valerie Hudcovic  
School Social Worker  
Leeward District  
94-1170 Waipahu St.  
Waipahu HI 96797



**LATE**

**HB-2051-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:44:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gale Mejia   | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
 The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
 & Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
 State Capitol Room 211  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB2051 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ (add your name and organization (if any))

I am appealing for your support of HB2051 HD1 SD1 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

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Weed and Seed is an important 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 Weed and Seed by supporting HB2051 HD1 SD1 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Address