



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

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2852, RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2018 **TIME:** 1:35 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

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

Chair Nishihara 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-in-aid, 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 underage 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.

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB131 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf –
RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha! My name is Bert Carter and I am the 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 7 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed and the Honolulu Police Department have been offering the ReaAnd Powerful (RAP) program to our fifth grade students for the past 7 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.

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Bert Carter
Principal
Kaewai Elementary School

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Colette Oshiro.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 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 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,
Colette Oshiro

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Kim Sanders and our school has been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 7 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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.

Weed and Seed Hawaii has been instrumental in keeping our students safe and off the streets. Their programs in Ewa Beach have supported positive engagement and collaboration in making our schools and community safe for everyone. Their program gives our students outstanding role models and training in making good choices. They have also supported our intramural programs and interact with our students through out the school year.

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,



Kim Sanders
Principal, Ewa Makai Middle School

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 12:20:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:57:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Orikasa	Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

This program has been effective over the years in providing financial support to the police department. The weed & seed concept should be maintained the expanded throughout the state for those areas which meet the criteria and need of this program.

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:14:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard K. Minatoya	Maui Department of the Prosecuting Attorney	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui SUPPORTS SB 2852, which will provide much needed funding for the Weed & Seed program. The Department requests that this measure be PASSED.

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

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:06:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anson "Kaipo" Paiva	Honolulu Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Officer Kaipo Paiva. I am a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department and I am currently assigned to the District 3 Community Policing Team. As a part of the community policing team I have worked very closely and successfully with Weed & Seed Hawaii for 8 years. Weed & Seed Hawaii has enabled us to go into the schools in the Waipahu area and build meaningful and lasting relationships with the Waipahu community. Those relationships have built trust between the police and community and has positively impacted the community. Because of Weed & Seed Hawaii, the police have ongoing programs in Waipahu Elementary, Honowai Elementary, Waipahu Intermediate and Waipahu High School. These programs have also helped to create community events, such as, the Waipahu Christmas Carnival and Parade and numerous community beautification projects.

I fully support Weed & Seed Hawaii as I have seen the positive change in the Waipahu community. I would love to see Weed & Seed Hawaii to be supported.

Mahalo,

Kaipo Paiva



THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

94-428 Mokuola St., Suite 302 Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797 Phone: 680-0451 Fax: 680-7510 www.filcom.org

Our mission is to develop, own and operate a community center that provides social, economic and education services and to promote and perpetuate Filipino culture and customs in the State of Hawai'i.

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 429

To: Hon. Chair Senator Clarence Nishihara, Hon. Vice Chair Senator Glenn Wakai and Committee Members

From: The Filipino Community Center, Inc.
Franz D. Juan, Executive Director

Subject: Support for SB2852, RELATING TO WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

The Filipino Community Center, Inc.'s mission, in part, is to provide social, economic and education services and to promote and perpetuate Filipino culture and customs in the State of Hawaii. The importance of delivering quality language assistance to our community and to the State of Hawaii is an integral part of a community moving forward through education.

We support SB2852, sustaining the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

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 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.

Therefore, we support SB2852 **so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Ward Branch

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB131 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Anna M. Kobashigawa and I am the branch manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Ward Branch. I have been an active member of Weed and Seed since 2012.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

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

Anna M. Kobashigawa
Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager
Ph (808) 593-9948
Fax (808) 593-9045
Email: akobashigawa@fhb.com



January 30, 2018

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 2852 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2018 1:35 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debbie Luning, Community Relations Director for Gentry Homes and a board member of Weed and Seed Hawaii. I am also a member of the Ewa Weed and Seed Steering Committee. I am testifying in **strong support** of S.B. 2852, which appropriates funds to maintain and expand the Weed & 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 S.B. 2852.

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

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:18:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa L. Chun	HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

State Capitol Room 229

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB131 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Lisa Chun and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 3 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 of the diverse services they offer to all generations and their genuine care for their community members.

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Chun, President

HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Foundation

1226 College Walk

Honolulu, HI 96817

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB131 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf –
RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Kelli Buenconsejo. I am a Public Health Nurse and the Chair of the Waipahu Community Coalition.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 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 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN PHN
Waipahu Community Coalition, Chair

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:33:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neal Rivera	Waipahu Community Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

State Capitol Room 229

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Neal Rivera

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 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 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Neal Rivera

Waipahu Community Coalition Secretary

P.O. Box 971119

Waipahu Hi, 96797

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:01:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gale Mejia	Waipahu Community Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military

Affairs

State Capitol Room 229

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Gale Mejia and I am a member of the Waipahu Steering Committee. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past ten years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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.

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.

1. Mentoring high school students at Waipahu High School through the Na Alaka'i student club to reach out to fellow students in need.

1. Supporting safe communities through community policing groups.

1. Supporting beautification events that engage community members, both young and old, to take pride in our community.

1. 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 Town Hall on Underage Drinking and Drug Use and 'Ohana Bingo Night.

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Gale Mejia

91-544 Huleia Place

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf –
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 SB2852 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 SB2852 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

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Maile Kanemaru and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 20 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 has excellent outcomes in decreasing crime in the designated neighborhoods. It has proven to provide opportunities for community and law enforcement to work together and now there are trust relationships between them. The youth programs that have been implemented with this partnership has proven to be excellent prevention programs such as sports programs, culinary arts, mentoring and youth community patrol

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Maile Kanemaru, Retired Executive Director of Weed and Seed
94-277 Hokulewa Loop
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

And Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

State Capitol, Room 229

Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB 2852 – 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 SB2852 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 SBH2852 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

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB131 – 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 SB2852 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 5 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,



Rochelle Kalili
85-203 McArthur Street
Waianae, Hawai'i 96792

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:00:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Ikeda		Support	No

Comments:

01/31/18

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

State Capitol Room 229

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB2852 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Malia-Ann Ikeda and I have been a resident of Ewa Beach for twenty five years. I have seen many changes in the Ewa-Ewa Beach area during this time and feel that Weed and Seed Hawaii has been integral in keeping the community I live in a safe place where we can live, work, and play.

About five years ago I formed a partnership with Weed and Seed while employed at an elementary school in Ewa Beach. The Weed and Seed Coordinator and the Community Policing Team were always willing to participate in school functions and events. I wanted to be more involved and the opportunity presented itself. I have now served as a Weed and Seed Steering Committee Member for the past three years.

I am reaching out to you for your support of SB2852 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed Hawaii 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 firsthand the impact it has on the Ewa Beach community. This bill will help as we continue to implement the four strategies of Weed and Seed: Law Enforcement, Community Policing, Prevention/Intervention/Treatment, and Neighborhood Revitalization. Some of the programs in the Ewa Beach community include:

- 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 Up

Weed and Seed is an important community resource that should be sustained . Your support with 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 kindly ask for your consideration in support of SB2852 for the Weed and Seed Hawaii strategy.

Sincerely,

Malia-Ann Ikeda

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is PeterJohn Lee and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 13 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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,

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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

PeterJohn Lee
91-209 Makalauna Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

SB-2852

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:34:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2018 1:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krystal Baba		Support	No

Comments:

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs
State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

RE: SB2852 http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/CommReports/HB1580_HSCR152-16_.pdf –
RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Jan Nishihira.

I am appealing for your support of SB2852 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 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 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 SB2852 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Jan Nishihira
Registered Nurse