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February 14, 2017

To: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair,
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs

To: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair,
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. No. 607 Relating to Crime Reduction

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

SB607 creates a Weed and Seed program in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in the Office of Community Services (OCS). DLIR strongly opposes creating a new program within the department as it seeks to continue to restore capacity.

II. CURRENT LAW

There is no such program in DLIR, although OCS has administered a Grant-in-Aid pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes at times in the past.

III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL

DLIR has serious concerns with the measure as currently drafted. The reduction of crime and drug use and the prevention of crime are outside the mission of DLIR. The Department notes that several other vehicles regarding this program designate agencies that have more experience and are more appropriate to the objectives of the program.



Meadow Gold Dairies



Written Testimony by: Glenn Muranaka
SB 607, Crime Reduction
Senate PSM/JDL Hearing, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017 – 8:30 am
Room 016

Position: Support

Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate PSM/JDL Committees:

My name is Glenn Muranaka, President and General Manager of Meadow Gold Dairies. Our company has been in Hawaii since 1897—120 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.

SB607 which proposes to make a permanent weed and seed strategy program is strongly supported. The Weed and Seed program 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 note that the state appropriations request is contingent on obtaining federal funding for the program in designated areas. 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.