



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1347, RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

LATE

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Dawn Martin, Grants & Planning Specialist, Crime Prevention and
Justice Assistance Division

Chairs Rhoads and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

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.

The Weed and Seed Project provides community policing strategies; prevention, intervention and treatment activities; and neighborhood restoration through collaboration between federal, state and county law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, and private businesses. This is an effort to prevent and address crime and rebuild communities in targeted areas. Past Weed and Seed Projects engaged and benefited youth, seniors, and neighborhoods in the Weed and Seed sites of Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown, Ewa Beach, and Waipahu. Activities included but were not limited to: community clean-up events, graffiti paint-outs, community traffic awareness campaigns, citizen patrol and neighborhood security watch groups or training, the provision of back-to-school supplies for youth, senior safety presentations, youth leadership activities, Town Hall meetings on underage drinking and drug use, and participation in the Celebrate Safe Communities event.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DI-MK

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara, and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1347, Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy

I am Major Darren Izumo of District 5 (Kalihi) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 1347, Relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy. This bill will provide funding for Weed and Seed Hawaii to maintain the Weed and Seed strategy.

As an original partner in the Weed and Seed program, the HPD recognizes the benefits of the program in reducing crime and revitalizing areas, thus improving the quality of life for people who live and work in Weed and Seed designated communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren Izumo".

Darren Izumo, Major
District 5

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police



HASEKO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
State Capitol Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs,

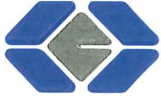
My name is Sharene Saito Tam and I am the Vice President for Haseko Development, Inc. in 'Ewa Beach. My company and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for more than 15 years. I am requesting your support of SB1347 to sustain the Weed and Seed program because I have seen the positive effects Weed and Seed has had on the 'Ewa/'Ewa Beach community.

This collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce both violent and drug-related crimes, as well as inspire community pride. The truancy rate at area schools has fallen significantly since Weed and Seed came to 'Ewa Beach. Weed and Seed officers help residents and students organize citizen patrols to walk neighborhood streets, and their partnerships with community members has helped to paint out graffiti and clean up neighborhood parks. In addition, officers provide valuable life skills and job training via "seeding" efforts such as the summer culinary arts program. By having Weed and Seed officers working hand in hand with residents, students and businesses, residents are inspired to work together to keep our community safe.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. **I urge you to demonstrate your support for Weed and Seed by voting in favor of SB1347** to ensure that community leaders and partners can continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that works toward preventing crime and growing a strong, healthy and safe community.

Sincerely,

Sharene Saito Tam
Vice President
Haseko Development, Inc.



February 8, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 1347 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2019; 10:00 am; State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debbie Luning, Community Relations Director for Gentry Homes and a member of Ewa Weed and Seed Steering Committee. I am testifying in **strong support** of S.B. 1347, 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 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. 1347.

Sincerely,

GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debra M. A. Luning'.

Debra M. A. Luning
Director of Governmental Affairs and
Community Relations

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:31:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support | No |

Comments:



First Hawaiian Bank

Ward Branch

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - 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 requesting your support of SB1347 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 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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – LEEWARD DISTRICT
JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL
91-980 NORTH ROAD
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Kathy Silva and I work in Ewa Beach at James Campbell High School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 4 1/2 years.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 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 in my role as a school Vice Principal the Weed and Seed Program has actively engaged our students in various projects and programs in school and around the community. Each summer, the Weed and Seed officers work with our students in our Culinary Arts program. This partnership has provided both mentoring and work-related skills to our students. The Weed and Seed program has also been supportive in helping to raise our student attendance rates. Four times a year, the Weed and Seed officers help us by doing a truancy sweep. The purpose of the sweep is to keep our students in school and reduce the crime within our community. The programs provided by Weed and Seed continues to be a great resource to Campbell High School and the Ewa Beach community, as it promotes the importance of education and staying in school.

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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,
Kathy M. Silva
Vice Principal
James Campbell High School
(808)305-3730

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:10:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brett Kulbis | Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party | Support | No |

Comments:

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Nellwyne Young and I am a Counselor at James Campbell High School. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for many many years as through the Truancy Sweeps that the Officers conduct in conjunction with our administration, faculty and staff.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 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 very involved in our school community to make it a safe place and they also provide positive activities for our students.

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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Nellwyne Young
J. Campbell High School
91-980 North Road
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Stephen Ing and I am a teacher. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 15 years.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 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 the program has provided Ilima Intermediate School with additional resources that otherwise would not have been available to our school. They are always able and willing to help with various things.

- Officiate our school's intramural activities. The activities range from flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and other sports. The officers referee the activities.
- Judge other activities from door contests, cheering contests, poster contests.
- Chaperone after school activities (school dances, socials).
- Assist with evacuation drills.
- Provided our students with opportunities for community service (drive safe 4 ewa, beach clean up)

While providing their assistance in these activities, they are actively building relationships with the adults on campus and more importantly, the students here at our school. These positive relationships can go a long way in the development of our young adolescents in helping them to stay on the right path.

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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ing
Student Activities Coordinator
Ilima Intermediate School
91-884 Ft Weaver Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 687-9325

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Maile Kanemaru and I am the retired Director of Weed and Seed Hawaii. I have been involved with the weed and Seed Program for the last 20 years.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 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 the mentioned communities..

I support Weed and Seed because it has motivated residents to get involved to make their communities safe. Volunteers participate in cleanup projects, prevention programs for youth, and safety programs for senior citizens. The program has been able to leverage resources from various businesses and organizations, as well as sponsoring an Annual Legacy luncheon to raise funds to support Weed and Seed. Community participation is a key element to empower residents to work with law enforcement in addressing safety concerns.

Weed and Seed is an important community resource which needs to be continued. Your 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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Maile Kanemaru,
Retired Director, Weed and Seed



94-277 Hokulewa Loop
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Roland Pagan and I am a Police Officer and a Resident of Ewa Beach for 20 years. I have been involved with Weed and Seed for 12 years.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach.

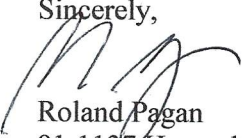
Weed and Seed is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses that have helped to reduce violent and drug-related crimes in my community.

I support Weed and Seed because I have had the honor and privilege of working along side the officers as well as community members who support these programs. I have been fortunate enough to see the many changes that have come to the Ewa Beach community because of the programs directed not only at the youth in the community, but the efforts made in crime prevention and education. The availability of officers, involved community members and the partners of Weed and Seed have eased many concerns of the numerous schools and organizations that call Ewa Beach home. The relationships built by the youth of the community with the Officers of HPD and the Weed and Seed detail have provided many benefits to these kids that may not have had the opportunity to sit next to and discuss the many issues that concern them at these vulnerable ages. The relationships that the youth of these communities have been able to make with the officers involved with the many Weed and Seed programs can and have proven to, make a big difference in a lot of their lives.

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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,



Roland Pagan

91-1137 Hoowalea St., Ewa Beach HI. 96706

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Shayna deGuzman and I am a Parent Community Network Center Facilitator (PCNC) at Ilima Intermediate School. This is my first year working with Weed and Seed.

I am requesting your support of SB1347 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 I've worked with Weed and Seed when I was a student at Ilima Intermediate back in 2012. They supported our school by helping out with activities such as referring our intramural sports. Weed and Seed has also collaborated with our Student Government by helping with our quarterly sign-waving activities. Along with supervising our students during our sign-waving activities, they were generous enough to provide signs for the students to use. They've been a huge help to all of our school-wide activities and are available whenever we need them. We appreciate their continuous and growing support over the years.

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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Shayna deGuzman
Parent Community Network Center Facilitator (PCNC)
Ilima Intermediate School
91-884 Fort Weaver Rd, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

SB-1347

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 6:30:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| SUSAN P HUGHES | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

February 6, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

My name is Malia-Ann Ikeda and I have been a resident of Ewa Beach for twenty six years. I have seen many changes in the Ewa-Ewa Beach area during this time and feel that partnerships have been an integral part in keeping my community a safe place to live and thrive. I am requesting your support of SB1347 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach sites.

I first formed a partnership with Weed and Seed when I worked at an elementary school in Ewa Beach. The Program Director and Community Policing Team were always willing to participate in school functions and events. I wanted to be more involved with this organization and the Steering Committee allowed me the opportunity. I have served as a Weed and Seed Steering Committee Member for the past four years and was recently appointed as their secretary.

I support Weed and Seed Hawaii, Inc. because I have seen firsthand the impact that they have on the Ewa Beach community. This grant 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 Ups

I kindly ask for your support with SB1347 so that Weed and Seed Hawai'i, Inc. can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Very Respectfully,

Malia-Ann Ikeda

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Florence Nakakuni and I live in Honolulu and worked in downtown Honolulu until my retirement in 2017.

I have been involved with Weed and Seed Hawaii for the past 10 years that I served as the U.S. Attorney for Hawaii and I have continued my involvement as a Board Member. I am requesting your support of SB1347 to sustain the Weed and Seed Hawaii program in Kalihi-Palama- Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, Ewa-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 James 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 an Executive Chef of Roy's Restaurant in Ko Olina who 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 faces of children at many of the other excellent youth mentoring programs, even the Kupuna! Weed and Seed also participates and help coordinate community clean ups, graffiti removal and citizen 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 Hawaii by supporting SB 1347 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, Hawaii. 96821

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees on Judiciary & Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

RE: SB1347 - 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 requesting your support of SB1347 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.

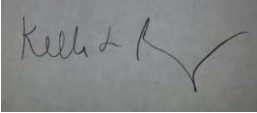
- I am an avid supporter of Weed and Seed, because I have seen the improvement in my community through decreased crime and increased community awareness of illegal activities. They have realized that crime prevention must start at a younger age and they work with elementary, intermediate and high school 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 SB1347 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

A square image containing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "Kelli L. Buenconsejo".

Kelli L. Buenconsejo, RN
187 Kilea Place
Wahiawa, HI 96786

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



EDMUND "FRED" HYUN
CHAIR

JOYCE K. MATSUMORI-HOSHIJO
MICHAEL A. TOWN
ANNELLE C. AMARAL
FITUINA F. TUA
MEMBERS

TOMMY JOHNSON
ADMINISTRATOR

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
1177 Alakea Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1347
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

By
HAWAII PAROLING AUTHORITY
Edmund "FRED" Hyun, Chairman

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

AND

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Friday, February 8, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Rhoads, Chair Nishihara, and Members of both Committees:

The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) supports Senate Bill 1347 relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy. This bill will continue to allow the various stakeholders to maintain the efforts of the weed and seed program and reduce recidivism.

Over the years the program has played a significant role in reducing crime in historically troubled neighborhoods. Community leaders have worked together with various agencies to revitalize and improve the quality of life for residents.

Inmates released on parole who return to these weed and seed communities benefit by having family support, police presence, and less criminal activity in the neighborhood which increases their chances for successful reintegration back into the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1347.