



ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE: S.B. NO. 131, RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON public safety, intergovernmental and military affa

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2017

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or Dawn Martin, CPJAD Grants & Planning Specialist

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. The weed and seed strategy allows law enforcement agencies, social service agencies and community members to work together to develop solutions and address violent and drug related crimes in targeted neighborhoods. We support the funding of this project through a grant made under Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 7,2017 1:20pm Conference Room 229 State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

SB 131 RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

Dear Chairs and Members:

My name is Maile Kanemaru and I am the former Executive Director of Weed and Seed Hawaii.

I am supporting HB 131 relating to the Weed and Seed Strategy.

I would like to propose the following amendments:

1) delete the sentence that begins on line #3 initiated in 1992 and ends on line #5 with "cities across the nation".

2) On line #10, add after the word Chinatown, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

3) Line #20 replace the word Empower Oahu to Weed and Seed Hawaii.

Weed and Seed Hawaii has filed for 501c3 status with the IRS and waiting for confirmation.

Weed and Seed is a Program sponsored by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii. It has been in existence for the past 18 years . It was a program of the Department of Justice from 1991 – 2012. Although no longer a part of DOJ, the communities of Kalihi/Palama/Chinatown, Waipahu and Ewa/Ewa Beach continue to support the Weed and Seed programs and participate in the many activities.

Weed and Seed has been a bridge between law enforcement and community Through the Weed and Seed activities, the police officers and residents have become partners in working together in planning and implementing strategies to keep their community safe.

I strongly urge you to support SB 131

Mahalo,

aneman

Maile Kanemaru

Director, Weed and Seed, Emeritus



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Rowena Martinez and I am a big supporter of Weed and Seed since its introduction to Ewa Beach for the past 13 years. I wouldn't be taking the time to submit this letter requesting funding for this program if I didn't see the difference it has made in my community.

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 believe Weed and Seed was the catalyst to change in Ewa Beach. Bridging the old community of Ewa and Ewa Beach's sugar cane community with the new community of developments by Gentry and Haseko. With Weed and Seed's none threating approach to work with the people, business's and HPD my dreams of living in a safe and beautiful place of long ago has become a reality. Ewa Beach is a great place to live, work and play! Thanks to the Weed and Seed program, developers and law enforcement are seen as part of the community not a separate entity. Of course, nothing is trouble free for graffiti, rubbish, drugs and homeless, but at least we as a community know where to get help and how to help.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Rowena Martinez

91-531 Aikanaka Rd



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 Barbara Tom and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 14 years.

I am appealing for your support of SB131 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, without their support in the Waipahu community, our focus and awareness on crime prevention and support to build a healthier and safer community would be nonexistent. Their ability to work collaborative with all stakeholders in this community is key to the success of many of our projects in Waipahu. I have worked on many projects such as Health Fairs, the Cane Haul Run, the community speak outs, and more recently an immigrant resource center, which provides tutorials for our youth, a sewing center for our women, and educational and job related skills for our adults in the Pupuole area. All of these projects as well as many others involve the help and coordination and support of Weed & Seed coordinator and the community police.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Burbare Son

Barbara Tom RN

98-1854 Mikinolia Place, Aiea 96701

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION KEONE`ULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 91-970 KAILEOLEA DRIVE EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI SUPERINTENDENT

February 6, 2017

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

RE: SB131 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

My name is Paul Taga and I am currently the principal of Keone'ula Elementary School in Ewa Beach, but I also served as principal of Waipahu Elementary School from 2006 to 2015. I have been involved with Weed and Seed as a volunteer, a partner, and advocate for the past 12 years, and believe wholeheartedly in the positive change this organization has created in our communities.

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 drugrelated crimes in our community. It is an important organizational tool and 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 support Weed and Seed because I have personally witnessed how this effort has made a difference in people's lives not only here in Ewa Beach, but also in Waipahu. I believe it would be a tremendous hardship for these communities to lose the much needed support and services that Weed and Seed provides, and the progress that has been made to empower people in these areas would be lost.

For many years Weed and Seed Hawaii has had to balance the hard work they do in each community with constant efforts to seek funding from a variety of sources to continue its operations. With your support of SB131 Weed and Seed Hawaii will be able to continue their efforts in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach uninterrupted.

I urge you to support Weed and Seed by supporting SB131.

Sincerely.

Paul S. Taga Principal

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 Anson Paiva and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past six years.

l am appealing for your support of SB131 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 of the positive results they have created. I have first-hand experience with Weed and Seed. The relationships that Weed and Seed has built between the Waipahu community and the Honolulu Police Department has strengthened and created a safer community. The youth in the community have a better relationship with police officers and are more inclined to make better choices for the community and themselves. Communication has improved between the community and the police which has led them both to work together to find ways to find permanent and efficient solutions to community problems. The work that Weed and Seed has done has changed the culture and strengthen the community, the youth and the relationships with the Honolulu Police Department.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely, Anson Paiva 94-1028 Kalulu Loop.



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, Hawai'i 96813

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

RE: SB131 - RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED STRATEGY

I am writing to ask for your support of SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and 'Ewa/'Ewa Beach. 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 a decade.

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.

I have seen the benefits of this effort in my community. 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 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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Mahalo,

ene Saito Tan

Vice President Haseko Development, Inc.



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Stephen Ing and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past thirteen years.

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 organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program 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 SB131 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



Ward Branch February 6, 2017



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Anna Kobashigawa and I am a branch manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Ward Branch. I have been an active member of Weed and Seed since 2012.

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 results 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. We have experienced no recent vandalism at the bank.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely, aun

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





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 STATEGY

I am appealing for your support SB 131 to sustain Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa- Ewa Beach. My name is Darryl Shinogi and I am an Executive Chef, I have been involved with Weed and Seed, Site III for the past 5 years.

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 5 years ago I was invited to be a guest chef instructor at Ewa Weed and Seed Culinary Arts Summer Program. It took me just one visit to see the excellent partnership they built with James Campbell High School but most importantly the students. Seeing how they interact with Officers and learning the art of cooking I became their main instructor for the past 5 years. Volunteering my time to do this is rewarding because it allows me to give back to our communities. The Culinary Arts program is well known because I was approached to do this at a school on the Leeward side. Ms. Braceros quickly helped me with her curriculum and helped me put together a smaller version of their program. Weed and Seed provides many other programs that allow the kids to explore and learn and making positive choices.

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 SB 131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Darryl Shinogi Executive Chef Roy's Ko Olina



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Ruth Samuel and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 5 years.

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 as a steering committee member of Site I witnessed firsthand how Weed and Seed work together with Honolulu Police Department, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, government agencies and other organizations to provide excellent services for our communities.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely, Ruth Samuel 808- 226-5080 ruth.samuel001@yahoo.com

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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Shaunna Okuda and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 8 years.

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 as the chairperson of the Site I Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan Steering Committee, I have had the good fortune of being able to see firsthand how Weed and Seed has been involved in our community. Residents and businesses are willing to join citizen patrol groups and are willing to talk about what is going on in their area. Weed and Seed has been involved in our community by coordinating community events, programs and community clean ups. They build and connect law enforcement with the community to work as a team. I see a huge difference in our communities

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Shaunna Okuda Site I Steering Committee Chairperson



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Malia-Ann Ikeda and I am a resident of Ewa Beach for over twenty years. I have previously partnered with Weed and Seed in community events and have been a Steering Committee Member for Site III for the past two years.

I support Weed and Seed because the organization works closely with all levels in my community. It's 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 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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Malia-Ann Ikeda 91-1186 Kuhaimona Pl. Ewa Beach, HI 96706



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

I am appealing for your support SB131 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Palama-Chinatown-Ala Moana-Sheridan, Waipahu, and Ewa-Ewa Beach. My name is Kelle Shodahl and I have been involved with Weed and Seed for the past 6 years.

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 although I am a resident of Ewa Beach I was not too familiar of the difference resources Gale Braceros, Program Director reached out to me and in partnership the parents of my students now volunteer at community clean ups that Weed and Seed host, they learned how to give back to the community, our community. My preschool became part of their Adopt a School Program where the Officers do school visits to talk to the students about safety. They helped us to develop an evacuation plan and hooked us on the Campbell Complex for emergency situations. It is such a joy to see how the children run up to the Officers when they visit.

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 SB131 so that we can continue to ensure for the safety of all stakeholders in these communities.

Sincerely,

Kelle Shodahl, Director 91-679 Ft. Weaver Road, Ewa Beach 808-682-0010