

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
& C OF HONOLULU
2013 MAY -9 AM 8:04

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Ann H., Kobayashi, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
& Members of the Committee on Budget
City Council
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Budget Committee:

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1-SUPPOPRT FOR THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 that includes monies to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-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.

As the Ewa/Ewa Beach Steering Committee Chair, I have witnessed and acknowledge the good work Weed and Seed has done in the past ten plus years. The increased collaboration with Law Enforcement and community agencies, non- profits, businesses, schools and more importantly our young people who together work hand in hand that brings back hope to residents living once in a distressed neighborhood. Truancy rates has decreased, positive programs for kids have been put in place as; mentoring programs, sports and recreational programs, community and Kupuna beautification program, along with life learning skills as culinary program, the arts program and job skills to name a few.

Whether it is through mentoring our youth, offering prevention programs or career developmental programs, it strives to fulfill the goals of Federal Weed and Seed strategy, that encourages our youth to become better citizens. Although currently, Bill II (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed and Seed, my community and I humbly asks that the City Council increase the amount to \$200,000. Every year Weed and Seed is instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to "volunteer" their time cleaning up the neighborhoods and streams, participating in Citizen Patrol groups and organizing positive events and programs to strengthen our families. These efforts save the City and County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually. So we need your support by increasing the funding that will allow us to continue these efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department and Community Policing officers.

Page 2

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CDI

With your help and support of Weed and Seed program together we can continue to build a stronger network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and improve the quality of life for neighborhoods in Hawaii.

I urge you to support the passage of Bill 11 (2013) with our recommended request.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Rivero", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frances Rivero, Chair

Site 3-Ewa/Ewa Beach Steering Committee