

May 8, 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

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CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2013 MAY -9 AM 8:03

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

RE: BILL 11 (2013) CD1 – SUPPORT 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.

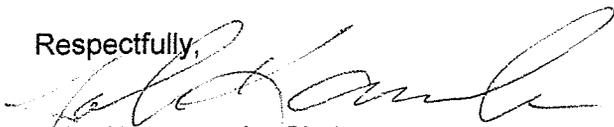
As the Chair of the Waipahu Steering Committee, I have had the good fortune of being able to see first-hand how effective Weed & Seed has been in our community. Weed & Seed has been successful in getting groups to “adopt” different locations throughout our site that are continuously plagued with graffiti. These groups help to maintain the beauty of our community in between our quarterly clean ups. We have nurtured the establishment of the Waipahu Community Based Development Organization who in 2011 became a 501c3 and has supported events such as the Waipahu 5K Cane Haul Run and Historic Tour of Waipahu which has brought our families together and created a sense of pride. Our police officers have mentored our youth from elementary through high school, creating a continued presence at our schools. Finally, we have seen a decrease in drug dealing and criminal activity in Aniani Place and the neighborhoods known as the “Pupu” area. Through all of our growth and changes, Weed & Seed has been at the forefront leading the charge and holding us, the residents accountable for our choices while reinforcing a sense of responsibility.

Currently, Bill 11 (2013) CD1 has designated \$150,000 for Weed & Seed. Waipahu humbly asks the City Council to increase that amount to \$200,000. Weed & Seed has been instrumental in getting businesses, residents, service providers and community groups to “volunteer” our time to clean up the neighborhoods and streams, be the eyes and ears in the community through Citizen Patrol groups and helping to organize positive events and programs to strengthen our families. These efforts save the City & County of Honolulu thousands of dollars annually. The increase of funding will allow us to continue these efforts with the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department Community Policing officers.

Your continued support of the Weed & Seed 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 the passage of Bill 11 (2013) CD1 with our recommended request.

Respectfully,



John Kauwenaole, Chair
Site II Steering Committee
Waipahu

MISC. COM. 1001

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