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June 2, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Chairman  
and Council Members  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Martin and Council Members:

As a retired Department of Education school Principal and current Education Specialist and partner with Ho'okipa WorkForce Academy (HWA) I believe that we as a community needs to sustain our state's position as one of the top cities in the nation for young adults to live. It is important to continue our efforts to prepare all students, regardless of economic or academic status, to be career ready.

We at HWA strive to Inspire, Cultivate and Raise the Hospitality Work Force industry. Our intent is to address a future shortage within the hospitality industry as approximately 5,000 of its current employees move towards retirement age within the next 5 years. Through our partnership with Kaimuki High School, we are piloting a summer program that offers students the opportunity to earn a credit towards graduation, learn skills required within the hospitality industry and participate in a paid work experience. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be ready to begin careers in the hospitality industry.

As a community member, I support general funding by the City for Operating Budget Bill 11 (2013); CD2 for Fiscal Year 2014, so programs such as ours can continue to provide education and training for our youth that will impact their future and that of our community.

I appreciate your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Randall M. Higa  
Honolulu Resident  
Email: randyh1818@gmail.com