
From: Wayne Miyao <wmiyao@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Kobayashi, Ann
Cc: Martin, Ernie; Anderson, Ikaika; Fukunaga, Carol A; Menor, Ron; Elefante, Brandon; Office of Councilmember Trevor Ozawa; Manahan, Joey; Pine, Kymberly Marcos
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: TESTIMONY oed budget 05 07 15.pdf

Aloha, Councilwoman Kobayashi!

As your constituent, here is my testimony on Bill 13(2015) requesting restoring of funding to the Office of Economic Development. I have had the privilege of working with them for more than 10 years and can attest to their leadership and support in helping us promote our "sister" relationship between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Hiroshima.

Here is our testimony for your review:

Thank you for your kind consideration.

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The Honorable Ann Kobayashi
Chair
Budget Committee
City Council

Dear Honorable Ann Kobayashi:

Re: Bill 13(2015)

It is my understanding that the Honolulu City Council is considering to severely reduce the Office of Economic Developments (OED) budget. While the amount being reduced may seem small in comparison to the City and County of Honolulu's total operating budget, the proposed cuts to OED will dramatically affect negatively each and every community impacted and supported by the Community Revitalization grants. We are therefore taking this opportunity to share with you our reasoning for the restoration of the proposed cost reductions to the Office of Economic Developing

As you know, the City and County of Honolulu established a "sister" city relationship with the City of Hiroshima in 1959. This was the "first" sister city for the City and Count of Honolulu and was the second such relationship between a U. S. city and a city in Japan.

Based on the success of this "sister" city relationship, other such "sister" relationships were established over the years including a "sister" chamber relationship by the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce and the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1981 and a "sister" state/prefecture by the State of Hawaii and Hiroshima Prefecture in 1997.

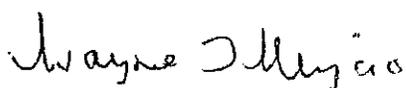
Honorable Ann Kobayashi
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Without the assistance of OED's Community Revitalization grants as well as its leadership, "sister" city commemorations were successfully achieved between the City and County of Honolulu and Hiroshima City on the 40th anniversary of this relationship in 1999 and the 50th anniversary in 2009. Also, for the past 50 years, a delegation from the City of Hiroshima has made goodwill tours to Honolulu

Additionally, to reduce OED's budget will affect the community efforts of so many other ethnic organizations and communities. We need the proposed cuts restored to ensure that historic efforts to increase Honolulu's appeal locally, internationally and globally are not diminished.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide you with our input regarding the importance of restoring proposed cuts to the Office of Economic Development (OED). When restored, this will allow OED to assist us to further benefit our relationships and ties with Japan and with Hiroshima.

With Best Regards,



Wayne T. Miyao
Chairman
Hiroshima Hawaii Sister State Committee

Chairman (2006-2007)
50th Anniversary Sister City Committee
between the City and County of Honolulu and Hiroshima City

President
Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai

Professionally:
Vice Chairman
Ohana Pacific Bank