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June 8, 2009

Evan Leong
Greater Good Inc.

To: The Honorable Tod Apo, Chair
And Members
Honolulu City Council

Subject: Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, regarding
Bill 15, Executive Operating Budget, CD2

Honorable Tod Apo, Council Chair I want to thank you for this opportunity to address the issues on the OED budget and Bill 15 CD2.

In order to promote and sustain the growth and development of the Honolulu organizations and communities, it is necessary to retain all funds requested for OED in the administration's original FY 2010 budget.

The OED plays a vital role in the organization and leadership of both private and public sectors, through their development projects and special programs. Through the OED leadership, the Honolulu Month in Chinatown (Chinese New Year) celebrations held since 2006 have always been fun-filled and memorable. In addition, these events bring in much needed customers to the Chinatown and downtown businesses. Since the OED took the lead in these events, attendance at some of the events increased by an estimated 30%, year over year. OED brought together the resources of both sectors to make these events successful.

The role that OED plays during these economically challenging times is very vital in sustaining the development of all levels of business, private and public.

If the allotted OED funds initially included are not retained in the FY 2010 budget, OED may not be able to provide necessary services needed to fund its programs. With these in view, I strongly urge you to support the retention of the original OED budget plan.

Council Chair Apo, thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Evan Leong
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Good Inc.

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