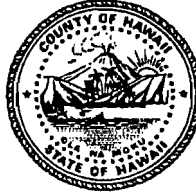


Harry Kim
Mayor



Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii

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February 9, 2006

Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawaii'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorable David Ige
Chair, Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawaii'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Ige and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2409

I am writing to respectfully request support for HB 2409, making an appropriation for a community anti-drug fund, in the amount of \$200,000.

We have been successfully implementing a community anti-drug fund for the past two years on Hawaii Island with the support of the Legislature and our State government. This grant program, the Healing Our Island fund, is administered by the Hawaii County Resource Center, a division of the Hawaii County Department of Research & Development. This is a community based grant for non-501(c)(3) organizations and community associations. The grant limit is \$2,000. All grants must be anti-drug programs and services that focus on children, families, and communities on our Island.

All grants are reviewed monthly by a panel of representatives from around the island and from multiple agencies who ensure a fair and balanced distribution of resources. Last year, over 86 organizations Islandwide were recipients of this anti-drug fund. In combination with aggressive enforcement, active prevention programs, and expanded treatment options, we believe the Healing Our Island fund is an integral part of a healthy and safe community. This program brings our community closer together, working in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration, to ensure that our community becomes and remains drug-free.

We are grateful for the hard work and support of our State legislature in addressing the horrific problem of drugs and substance abuse in our community. We look forward to continuing working together to ensure that we are doing all that we possibly can to ensure that our children do not suffer from addiction and abuse. Support for this appropriation and program is one way that we can continue to work towards that goal.

Mahalo,

William P. Kenoi
Executive Assistant