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Testimony In Support of SB 843, SD1 Relating to Sentencing

Hearing before Senate Judiciary Committee February 25, 2009

Submitted by Charlene Y. Iboshi, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Jay T. Kimura, Prosecuting Attorney

TO: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Committee Members

We support the Senate Bill 843, SD1

The purpose of SB 843, SD1 is to restore portions of what was Hawaii Revised Statutes section 706-603. These portions, which statutorily authorized a court to order a presentence mental or medical examination, were inadvertently repealed in 2005. The judges handling our mental health offender calendars recommended to restore this section.

We strongly support the passage of this bill. Given that the repealed sections set forth parameters for the length of the examinations, as well as how the examiners were to be selected, we believe that restoration of this section is necessary.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.