

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawai'i

March 28, 2016

**RE: H.B. 1404, H.D. 1, S.D. 1; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII
COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 1404, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS"), the Career Criminal Prosecution program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple- and repeat-felony offenders, commonly known as "career criminals." In response, the State created the Career Criminal Prosecution program, which it originally funded annually. Money spent on this unit is an efficient use of resources, in terms of providing citizens with swift and effective justice, and reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays. These tools are as necessary in Hawaii County as they are in Honolulu County, and this funding will provide the tools to protect our public from career criminals.

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1404, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.