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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB211 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER**

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney
County of Kaua'i

House Committee on Judiciary
February 6, 2015, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB211 – Relating to Appropriations for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. The Appropriation would fund the Department's establishing of a Family Justice Center in Honolulu.

In supporting these Appropriations, we note that more than 80 Family Justice Centers are currently in operation across the United States, with many more in the planning process. They are a proven model to provide effective, expeditious, and compassionate services to victims of crime in an environment that does not worsen their traumatization. We hope that one day, the Family Justice Center model can be exported to the neighbor islands as well.

Accordingly, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB211. We request that your Committee **PASS** the Appropriations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on these Appropriations.

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**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i**

February 6, 2015

**RE: H.B. 211; RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR HONOLULU FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of House Bill 211. This is one of only two bills in the Department's 2015 Legislative Package.

The Department is requesting \$350,000 as a grant-in-aid for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. This public safety initiative will provide comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking as well as long term transitional housing.

The Honolulu Family Justice Center will provide victims with a safe environment during some of their most vulnerable stages of separation from their abuser and encourage increased trust and understanding between victims, police and prosecutors, to better facilitate and follow-through on prosecution of these offenses. This, in turn, will help to hold more offenders accountable for their actions, and ultimately decrease incidents of recidivism.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of H.B. 211. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.