

SB 424

RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Appropriates moneys to the department of the prosecuting attorney of the city and county of Honolulu for the Honolulu family justice center.

PSM/JDL, WAM

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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**THE HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i**

February 12, 2015

RE: S.B. 424; RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER.

Chair Espero, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and members of the Senate 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 S.B. 424. 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 S.B. 424. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 8:34 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: tnakamatsu@honolulu.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB424 on Feb 12, 2015 09:10AM
Attachments: SB424 150212 PSM-JDL family.justice.center.doc

SB424

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for PSM/JDL on Feb 12, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tricia Nakamatsu	Dept of the Prosecuting Atty, C&C of Honolulu	Support	Yes

Comments: Honolulu Family Justice Center Director Pam Tamashiro will be present to testify on this matter.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB424 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER

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

Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
AND Judiciary and Labor
February 12, 2015, 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 016

Chairs Espero and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Committees:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB424 – 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 SB424. We request that your Committee **PASS** the Appropriations.

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

Hawaii Family Law Clinic, dba



To: Chairs Espero and Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro and Members of the PSM and JDL Committees
From: Edwin K. Flores, Ala Kuola
Hearing Date and Time: February 12, 2015, 9:10 a.m.
Re: SB 424

TESTIMONY FOR SB 424

Good afternoon Chairs Espero and Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chairs Baker and Shimabukuro, members of the PSM/JUD Committees, I am Edwin Flores, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Family Law Clinic also known as Ala Kuola. We strongly support SB 424.

In the past, we have supported prior efforts to pass similar legislation for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. We reiterate our strong support for the underlying intent and purpose of this Bill.

There clearly is a need for an "one stop shop" to address ongoing situations of domestic violence, sexual abuse and related trauma that currently does not exist. Ala Kuola has already committed to the completion and filing of Family Court TROs for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. The Honolulu Family Justice Center is intended to provide a facility that provides comprehensive services to address all aspects of domestic violence at a single location, which has been lacking up to this point in time.

I thank the PSM/JDL Committees for the opportunity to present our position on SB 424 and am ready to address any questions that the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and both Committee members may have.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 2:53 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: breaking-the-silence@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB424 on Feb 12, 2015 09:10AM*

SB424

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for PSM/JDL on Feb 12, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

SB424

Submitted on: 2/10/2015

Testimony for PSM/JDL on Feb 12, 2015 09:10AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Support	No