

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i

February 25, 2020

**RE: H.B. 2534, H.D. 1; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.**

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 2534, H.D. 1.

Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, 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, as it provides citizens with swift and effective justice, reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 2534, H.D. 1, which will provide the funding needed to provide this important state-mandated service to the community in Hawaii County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2534, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MAKING AND APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 **TIME:** 11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Shaleigh Tice, Grants & Planning Branch Chief, Crime Prevention
and Justice Assistance Division

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our executive budget. This bill would provide funds for services that are provided by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County to help fulfill the requirements of chapter 845, "Career Criminals," Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Legislature established the Career Criminal Prosecution (CCP) program because it found that a substantial and disproportionate amount of serious crime is committed by a relatively small number of multiple repeat felony offenders, commonly known as career criminals. The Legislature's intent was to support increased efforts by prosecuting attorneys' offices to prosecute career criminals. By their nature, CCP cases are often labor intensive and require experienced and well-trained deputy prosecutors. This funding request is needed to staff the CCP program so that the prosecution of career criminals can be pursued effectively.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 24, 2020

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2534, HD1 Making an Appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i

The Hawai'i County Career Criminal prosecution unit has a track record of success, and for years has been a valued part of our law enforcement effort. It was previously funded by the State, and we depend on your financial support for this State-mandated program.

HB 1739 makes a similar request for City and County. I see that as an indication that the value of a Career Criminal unit is recognized statewide.

I urge that such units be adequately funded, both through HB 2534, before you today, and in your State budget proposal when that is made. Whether called a grant-in-aid, a subsidy, or something else, the money will be wisely spent.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Kim", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Harry Kim
MAYOR