

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 53, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 **TIME:** 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

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

Chair Lee 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawai'i**

February 8, 2019

**RE: H.B. 53; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY.**

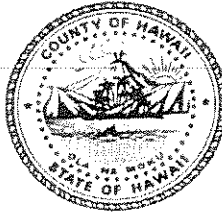
Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 53.

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. 53, 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.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 53

A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, COUNTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Lee, Honorable Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Judiciary. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill No. 53.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCP), including the hiring of necessary staff.

The CCP program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed against the public by a relatively small number of multiple and repeat-felony offenders, commonly known as "career criminals." Money spent on this unit is an efficient use of resources, in terms of providing citizens with swift and effective justice, and by reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays.

State law mandates that certain qualifying defendants be prosecuted under the CCP program (HRS Chapter 845). In order to avoid the unfunded mandate prohibition provided by the Hawai'i State Constitution, it was the practice for the State to provide funding for these services. Having this funding will enable, equip and enhance staff with the necessary tools and skills needed to effectively deal with complex situations of CCP.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of House Bill No. 53. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

County of Hawai'i
Council District 4 -
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ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 4

Chair: Committee on Planning, and Committee on Government Relations & Economic Development
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 11, 2019

House Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for HB53
relating to Hawai'i County Prosecutor's Career Criminal Prosecution Unit**

Aloha, Representatives:

I write in strong support of HB53, which would appropriate funds to the Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney's Career Criminal Prosecution Unit.

A disproportionate amount of serious crimes is committed against the public by a small number of multiple and repeat-felony offenders; funding the CCPU is an efficient use of resources, delivering justice swiftly and reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley", written over a horizontal line.

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
Hawai'i County Council, District 4

HB-53

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 2:15:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-53

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 5:52:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 4:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-53

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:49:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/12/2019 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments: