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**THE HONORABLE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai`i**

March 19, 2026

REGARDING: S.B. 2494— RELATING TO CORRUPTION.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2494.

S.B.2494 extends the statute of limitations for the crime of bribery. Under current law, prosecutions for most felonies must commence within three years of the offense.¹ The time tolls for public corruption offenses while the official remains in office and for two years thereafter.² But the maximum extension is an additional three years.³

The federal statute of limitations for public corruption offenses is generally five years.⁴ In 2009, Acting Assistant Attorney General M. Faith Burton supported an additional three-year extension for federal bribery cases, noting the “long-term systemic and insidious conduct” often involved.⁵ A three-year extension to the state statute of limitations would streamline cooperation with federal investigations. It would also ensure that investigations are complete and thorough before charging.

The Department strongly urges this Committee to pass S.B. 2494.

¹ HRS § 701-108(d).

² HRS § 701-108(b).

³ *Id.*

⁴ 18 U.S.C. § 3282(a).

⁵ Letter from M. Faith Burton, Acting Assistant Att’y Gen, to Chairman Patrick J. Leahy 1 (Mar.4, 2009), available at <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ola/legacy/2010/11/05/030409-s49-public-corruptionprosecution-act.pdf>.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.