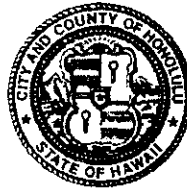


LATE TESTIMONY

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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MAYOR

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DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE WC-NTK

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 246, Relating to Appropriations to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu

I am Britt Nishijo, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

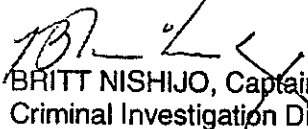
The Honolulu Police Department supports House Bill No. 246, Relating to Appropriations to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu.

The revenue appropriated for use by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's career criminal prosecution unit, prosecution in drug court, and the victim witness assistance program will enable the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney to hire their necessary staff and accomplish their mission more effectively. It will also aid in speeding up the prosecution of cases that fall under these categories.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to support House Bill No. 246, Relating to Appropriations to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


BRITT NISHIJO, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
**CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION
COMMISSION**

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Chair

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Commissioner

TOM WATTS
Commissioner

PAMELA FERGUSON-BREY
Executive Director

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 246
RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

by

Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director
Crime Victim Compensation Commission

House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, February 28, 2011; 11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Good morning Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance. Thank you for providing the Crime Victim Compensation Commission (the "Commission") with the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 246. House Bill 246 appropriates funds for to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu for the career criminal prosecution unit, drug court prosecution, HOPE prosecution enforcement, and a grant-in-aid for the victim witness assistance program.

The Commission was established in 1967 to mitigate the suffering and financial impact experienced by victims of violent crime by providing compensation to pay un-reimbursed crime-related expenses. Many victims of violent crime could not afford to pay their medical bills, receive needed mental health or rehabilitative services, or bury a loved one if compensation were not available from the Commission.

The Commission estimates that over eighty percent (80%) of the violent crime victims who apply for compensation are referred through the county victim witness assistance programs. The county victim witness assistance programs play an important role in mitigating the emotional and financial suffering experienced by victims through their referrals to the Commission and other social service agencies. The county victim witness assistance programs also support and guide victims through the criminal justice process, helping to ensure that offenders can be successfully prosecuted.

Many victims and surviving family members, particularly victims and survivors of violent crimes like murder and sexual assault, would not be able to make it through the criminal justice process without the support and guidance of a victim witness counselor. Victim witness counselors notify crime victims of hearing dates and major developments in their case, accompany victims and survivors to court where necessary, and help victims and survivors with victim impact statements to enable them to exercise their right to be heard at sentencing. This is all in addition to informing victims and survivors about the social services and financial assistance available to them as crime victims.

The county victim assistance programs need sufficient funding for staff in order to continue to provide these important services. The Commission urges you to support the appropriation of grants-in-aid to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu for the victim witness assistance program. Thank your providing the Commission with the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 246.