

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2865
RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FEDERAL
REIMBURSEMENT MAXIMIZATION SPECIAL FUND

by
Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports Senate Bill 2865 which is part of the Governor's package.

The Federal Reimbursement Maximization Special Fund was established by Act 172, Session Laws of Hawaii 2001, for the purpose of depositing all federal reimbursements received by the Department relating to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).

The existing statute, as written, restricts the use of these funds to state match to federal grants. Since Act 172 was enacted, the DOJ has developed rules that allow expanded use of the funds for correctional purposes. As federal grant opportunities are diminishing, it would greatly benefit the Department to access these funds for other pressing needs.

This bill will allow the Department to access these funds to further the goals of corrections such as: (1) providing training for corrections officers; (2) conducting facility or program evaluations; (3) renting/purchasing vehicles for inmate transport;

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(4) providing pre-release and re-entry programs; (5) improving technology; and (6) developing a plan for workforce recruitment and retention.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.