SB 2865

RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT MAXIMIZATION SPECIAL FUND

Description:

Expands the allowed use of the Federal Reimbursement Maximization Special Fund to reflect United States Department of Justice approved uses.



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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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

Senate Committee on Public Safety , Government Operations, and Military Affairs Senator Will Espero, Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 9, 2012, 2:45 p.m. State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.