



**LATE**

# HB1404 HD1

**Measure Title:** MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

**Report Title:** County of Hawaii; Appropriation; Career Criminal Prosecution Unit; Prosecuting Attorney (\$)

**Description:** Appropriates funds to the county of Hawaii office of the prosecuting attorney for the career criminal prosecution unit. (SD1)

**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** PSM/JDL, WAM

**Introducer(s):** ONISHI, LOWEN, NAKASHIMA, TSUJI, Creagan, Evans

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

**Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawai`i**

March 21, 2016

**RE: H.B. 1404, H.D. 1; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.**

Chair Nishihara, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 1404, H.D. 1

Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS"), 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, in terms of providing citizens with swift and effective justice, and reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays. These tools are as necessary in Hawaii County as they are in Honolulu County, and this funding will provide the tools to protect our public from career criminals. We understand that Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney was able to obtain additional grant (Victims of Crime Act) funding to support our victim witness assistance program—as our Department—and thus Section 2 of this bill can be deleted.

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1404, H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.