



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1667, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2016

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

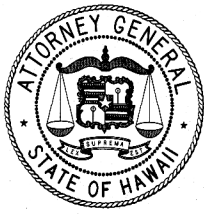
TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Julie Ebato, Administrator, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill because it would provide funds for services that are provided by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu. To the extent that these funding amounts can be supported within the State's financial plan, they would help fulfill the requirements of chapter 845, "Career Criminals," Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Legislature established the Career Criminal Prosecution (CCP) program because it found that a substantial and disproportionate amount of serious crime is committed by a relatively small number of multiple and repeat felony offenders, commonly known as career criminals. The Legislature's intent was to support increased efforts by prosecuting attorneys' offices to prosecute career criminals. By their nature, CCP cases are often labor intensive and require experienced and well-trained deputy prosecutors. Since fiscal year 2007-2008, funding for the CCP program has been reduced, which has resulted in positions being held vacant. This funding request is needed to staff the CCP program so that the prosecution of career criminals can be pursued to the greatest extent.

We respectfully ask the Committees to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1667, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2016

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Julie Ebato, Administrator, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill because it would provide funds for services that are provided by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu. To the extent that these funding amounts can be supported within the State's financial plan, they would help fulfill the requirements of chapter 845, "Career Criminals," Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Legislature established the Career Criminal Prosecution (CCP) program because it found that a substantial and disproportionate amount of serious crime is committed by a relatively small number of multiple and repeat felony offenders, commonly known as career criminals. The Legislature's intent was to support increased efforts by prosecuting attorneys' offices to prosecute career criminals. By their nature, CCP cases are often labor intensive and require experienced and well-trained deputy prosecutors. Since fiscal year 2007-2008, funding for the CCP program has been reduced, which has resulted in positions being held vacant. This funding request is needed to staff the CCP program so that the prosecution of career criminals can be pursued to the greatest extent.

We respectfully ask the Committees to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DALE A. ROSS
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KĪLAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908
(808) 934-3403
(808) 934-3503

WEST HAWAII UNIT
81-980 HALEKĪ ST, SUITE 150
KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII 96750
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1667

A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair, Rhoads, Honorable Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of House Bill No. 1667.

This measure appropriates moneys to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, for the Career Criminal Prosecution (CCP) Unit.

The funding of this program is essential for City and County of Honolulu prosecutors and will ensure the CCP will continue to make a positive effect on the citizens of Oahu.

State law mandates that certain qualifying defendants be prosecuted under the CCP program (HRS Chapter 845). In order to avoid the unfunded mandate prohibition provided by the Hawai'i State Constitution, it was the practice for the State to provide funding for these services.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 1667, which will provide the funding needed to maximize our service to our community in the field of Career Criminal Prosecution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawai'i

February 11, 2016

RE: H.B. 1667; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House 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. 1667. This bill is part of our Department's 2016 legislative package.

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. With your support, the Department will have the tools necessary to protect our public from career criminals. The current balance needed to maintain this program at its current level of operation within our Department is \$492,125.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1667, which will provide the funding needed to provide this important state-mandated service to our community. Also, as the legislative session progresses, we kindly request that our funding in this bill be inserted into the State Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.