

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
State of Hawai'i**

March 28, 2016

**RE: H.B. 210, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY
OF HONOLULU.**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 210, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, 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. 210, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, 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.