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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB211 – RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE HONOLULU FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney
County of Kaua'i

House Committee on Finance
February 27, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB211 – Relating to Appropriations for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. The Appropriation would fund the Department's establishing of a Family Justice Center in Honolulu.

In supporting these Appropriations, we note that more than 80 Family Justice Centers are currently in operation across the United States, with many more in the planning process. They are a proven model to provide effective, expeditious, and compassionate services to victims of crime in an environment that does not worsen their traumatization. We hope that one day, the Family Justice Center model can be exported to the neighbor islands as well.

Accordingly, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB211. We request that your Committee **PASS** the Appropriations.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on these Appropriations.

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**THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawai'i**

February 27, 2015

RE: H.B. 211; RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR HONOLULU FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the House Committee on Finance, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of House Bill 211. This is one of two bills in the Department's 2015 Legislative Package.

The Department is requesting \$350,000 as a grant-in-aid for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. This public safety initiative will provide comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking as well as long term transitional housing.

The Honolulu Family Justice Center will provide victims with a safe environment during some of their most vulnerable stages of separation from their abuser and encourage increased trust and understanding between victims, police and prosecutors, to better facilitate and follow-through on prosecution of these offenses. This, in turn, will help to hold more offenders accountable for their actions, and ultimately decrease incidents of recidivism.

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. 211. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



February 26, 2015

Good afternoon Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, members of the Finance Committee, I am Edwin Flores, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Family Law Clinic also known as Ala Kuola. We strongly support HB 211 for the grant-in-aid for the Honolulu Family Justice Center.

We have supported prior efforts to pass similar legislation for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. We reiterate our strong support for the underlying intent and purpose of this Bill.

There clearly is a need for a “one stop shop” to address ongoing situations of domestic violence, sexual abuse and related trauma that currently does not exist. Ala Kuola has already committed to the completion and filing of Family Court TROs for the Honolulu Family Justice Center. The Honolulu Family Justice Center is intended to provide a facility that provides comprehensive services to address all aspects of domestic violence at a single location, which has been lacking up to this point in time.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to present our position on HB 211 and am ready to address any questions that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee members may have.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 6:09 PM
To: FINTestimony
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB211 on Feb 27, 2015 13:30PM

LATE

HB211

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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