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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 477

A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, COUNTY OF HAWAII.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2017, 2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Nishimoto, 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. 477.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCP), Including the hiring of necessary staff.

The CCP program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed against the public by a relatively small of number of multiple and repeat-felony offenders, commonly known as "career criminals." Money spent on this unit is an efficient use of resources, in terms of providing citizens with swift and effective justice, and by reducing heavy caseloads and long court delays.

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. Having this funding will enable, equip and enhance staff with the necessary tools and skills needed to effectively deal with complex situations of CCP.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of House Bill No. 477. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 2:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB477 on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM*

Categories: Yellow Category

HB477

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

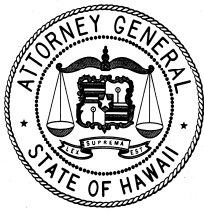
Testimony for JUD on Feb 3, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

LATE

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 477, RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, February 3, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Dawn Martin, CPJAD Grants & Planning Specialist

Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive budget. This bill would provide funds for services that are provided by the Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney to 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 Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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**THE HONORABLE SCOTT NISHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawai`i**

February 3, 2017

**RE: H.B. 477; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII COUNTY OFFICE
OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.**

Chair Nishimoto, 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 support of H.B. 477.

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 against the public 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 Unit, which it has 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, these deputy prosecuting attorneys will have the tools necessary to protect the public from career criminals.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney supports the passage of H.B. 477, which will provide the funding needed to maximize service to the community in Hawai'i County, in the area of Career Criminal Prosecution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.