



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 26, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Friday, February 24, 2017

**TIME:** 1:35 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Shaleigh Tice,  
Grants & Planning Branch Chief, at 586-1157)

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Chair Tokuda 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 Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii 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.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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February 22, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and members:

RE: **SB 26**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 26.

The Career Criminal Prosecution unit is mandated by state law, and our prosecutors have told me that it has proven to be an invaluable tool in fighting crime in Hawaii County. Since mandated by the State, it should continue to be funded by the State, and we genuinely believe that the entire State benefits from its accomplishments.

We appreciate your hearing this bill, and urge its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim  
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
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KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



CHRISTOPHER D.W. YOUNG  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawai`i**

February 24, 2017

**RE: S.B. 26; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OF THE PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY.**

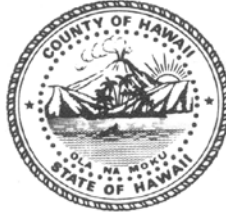
Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 26.

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 S.B. 26, 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.

**MITCHELL D. ROTH**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**DALE A. ROSS**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 26

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

##### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

##### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Friday, February 24, 2017, 1:35 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Honorable Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 26.

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 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 Senate Bill No. 26. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** kkahaloa@kona-kohala.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB26 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM\*

**SB26**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kirstin Kahaloa	Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB26 on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM\*

**SB26**

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Council Woman Sue Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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