



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 491, S.D. 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Friday, March 31, 2017

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Julie Ebato, Administrator, CPJAD

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Chair Luke 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 Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu 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  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**THE HONORABLE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**Twenty-Ninth State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2017**  
**State of Hawai'i**

March 31, 2017

**RE: S.B. 491, S.D. 1; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 S.B. 491, S.D. 1. This bill is part of the Department's 2017 legislative package.

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, as it provides citizens with swift and effective justice, 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 S.B. 491, S.D. 1, which will provide the funding needed to provide this important state-mandated service to our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**MITCHELL D. ROTH**  
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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 491, SD1

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Friday, March 31, 2017, 3:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Honorable Chair Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 491, SD1.

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.

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 the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu is **\$492,125**.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 491, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.