

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

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**THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M DELA CRUZ, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**Twenty-Ninth State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2018**  
**State of Hawai'i**

February 23, 2018

**RE: S.B. 2173; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 strong support of S.B. 2173. This bill is part of the Department's 2018 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.

The requested funding is greatly needed to continue operating our Career Criminal Prosecution unit at its current capacity and caseload, by maintaining positions that are currently filled. 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 \$493,818.

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. 2173, 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.



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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2173

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

#### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2018, 10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill No. 2173.

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.

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.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of Senate Bill No. 2173. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**SB-2173**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:04:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: