

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1352, H.D. 2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, March 15, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

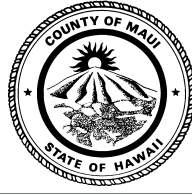
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
David T. Moore, Administrative Services Manager

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports H.B. No. 1352, H.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully request that the Committee pass this bill.



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
150 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

LATE

TESTIMONY
ON
H.B. 1352, H.D. 2 - RELATING TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OPERATING BUDGET

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments concerning H.B. 1352, H.D. 2, Relating to The Department of the Attorney General Operating Budget. Specifically, we would like to express our strong support for the continued funding of the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Response and Training Program ("HSART").

To date, the HSART program has had an enormous impact in providing the various counties with much-needed written guidelines and statewide standards involving investigative, medical and prosecutorial functions in the area of sexual assault. These standards and guidelines are vital in order to facilitate an effective statewide, victim-centered approach to investigation and prosecution of sexual assault.

Robert D. Rivera, First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for our Department, is a past and current member of HSART. In his personal experience, HSART provides the various counties with a unique opportunity to come together on a regular basis and address any concerns or issues pertaining to the above areas. Moreover, it is one of the only statewide teams we are aware of that actually achieves practical goals and objectives that benefit all of the counties in Hawaii.

One example of HSART's importance is its impact on Maui County's rural areas, particularly Molokai and Hana. If HSART was not funded, our outer districts would be left without a 24/7 rape crisis hotline. This service is vital to supporting our communities because sexual assault disclosures, which are already incredibly difficult for a victim to make, are made

even more difficult due to the geographic isolation of these areas.

It is our sincere hope that HSART may continue to provide the above invaluable services, guidance and direction on a statewide basis. Please feel free to contact our office at (808)270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org

LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE MK-KK

March 15, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1352, H.D. 2, Relating to the Department of the Attorney General
Operating Budget

I am Mikel Kunishima, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu
Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 1352, H.D. 2, Relating to the Department of the
Attorney General Operating Budget.

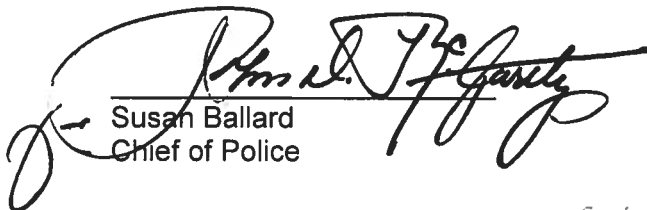
The HPD supports the funds for implementation of Act 113, Session Laws of
Hawaii 2018, regarding the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response and Training (HSART) Program.
This program is a multidisciplinary community response team that is engaged in the
comprehensive reform of jurisdictions' approach to sexual assault cases. This bill will provide
the capital for one full-time position and permanent funding for the HSART program, which are
both only funded through fiscal year 2019. The HPD supports and is committed to working with
the HSART program.


The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 1352, H.D. 2, Relating to the Department
of the Attorney General Operating Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,


Susan Ballard
Chief of Police


for Mikel Kunishima, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

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Nadine Tenn Salle, M.D.

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: March 15, 2019

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Justin Murakami, Manager, Prevention Education and Public Policy
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. 1352 H.D. 2
Relating to the Department of the Attorney General Operating Budget

Good morning Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) strongly supports H.B. 1352 H.D. 2, and respectfully submits the following comments concerning the Hawai'i Sexual Assault Response and Training Program (HSART).

We ask that the Committee please pass H.B. 1352 H.D. 2 in order to ensure that HSART receives dedicated state funds for the 2019 – 2021 fiscal biennium.

HSART is a statewide consultative partnership that convenes the four counties' sexual assault centers, sexual assault medical forensic examiners, police departments, prosecutor's offices, and the Honolulu Police Department-Scientific Investigation Section (the crime lab).

Members of this partnership work together on an ongoing basis to research and incorporate state-of-the-art medical forensic services into daily practice, engage in multidisciplinary training, explore national issues and best practices, achieve statewide standardization of processes, and identify and resolve any issues that arise in Hawai'i's coordinated criminal justice and victim services response to sexual assault.

SATC can directly attest to HSART's many accomplishments, including the creation and implementation of a standard sexual assault evidence kit and accompanying protocols for the State of Hawai'i. For many years HSART has also served as a crucial bridge between survivors' emotional and medical needs and the priorities of law enforcement agencies.

Although the program briefly recessed from 2014 to 2016, HSART's members were convened as Project Mālama Kākou, our state's Sexual Assault Kit Initiative working

group, and comprehensively resolved the issue of untested sexual assault evidence kits in Hawai'i pursuant to Act 207 (2016).

Recognizing how important it remains that the members of this partnership continue our efforts in a well-organized, focused manner, the Legislature took the further step of formally re-establishing HSART as a program within the Hawai'i State Department of the Attorney General with Act 113 (2018).

By funding the HSART program through the 2019 – 2021 fiscal biennium, the Committee's passage of H.B. 1352 H.D. 2 will enable our state to continue the necessary and crucial work of continually improving Hawai'i's coordinated response to sexual assault while caring for survivors of violent crime and bringing perpetrators to justice.