



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1739, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

LATE

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2020 **TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Shaleigh Tice, Grants & Planning Branch Chief, Crime Prevention
and Justice Assistance Division

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

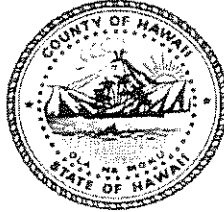
The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our executive budget. This bill would provide funds for services that are provided by the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County 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 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. This funding request is needed to staff the CCP program so that the prosecution of career criminals can be pursued effectively.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

MITCHELL D. ROTH
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1739

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Lee, Honorable 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. 1739.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCP).

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 is critical to enable, equip and retain 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 strongly supports the passage of House Bill 1739. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i**

February 5, 2020

RE: H.B. 1739; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

Chair Lee, 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 strong support of H.B. 1739. This bill is part of the Department's 2020 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, essentially 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.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1739, 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.

Justin F. Kollar
Prosecuting Attorney



Rebecca Vogt Like
Second Deputy

Jennifer S. Winn
First Deputy

Diana Gausepohl-White
Victim/Witness Program Director

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**THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i**

February 5, 2020

RE: H.B. 1739; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kauai submits the following testimony in strong support of H.B. 1739. This bill is part of the Honolulu Prosecutor's 2020 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, essentially 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.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i strongly supports the passage of H.B. 1739, 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.