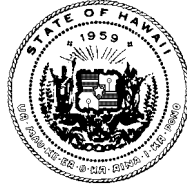


• DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 23, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1874 - RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS**

Hearing: February 24, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill lowers the age of crimes against seniors to sixty years of age and makes certain criminal offenses against seniors applicable regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's age.

DHS supports this bill to lower the age of crimes against seniors to sixty years of age. This law will further protect the health, safety and well-being of our vulnerable adults.

However, enhancing criminal laws is but one step; more needs to be invested in prevention, intervention, and support services to victims and families, as well as for those individuals who perpetrate crimes and their family members who are also impacted. In cases where mental health is identified as an issue, appropriate services should be offered and provided.

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

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

LATE

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on Judiciary**

February 24, 2020

H.B. No. 1874: RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender respectfully opposes H.B. No. 1874. This bill amends several current criminal statutes to create special treatment for cases that involve victims who are sixty years of age or older. The Office of the Public Defender has consistently opposed the creation of special victim classes that elevate criminal liability. In the past, the legislature has elevated those individuals that due to their employment, the legislature determined should receive special treatment. While proponents argue that this is a special protection, it has never been demonstrated that elevating these categories resulted in a reduction of offenses against them.

These special classes were created to elevate what would otherwise be a misdemeanor violation to a class C felony violation. This bill does the same thing for those who are sixty years of age or older, and also elevates what would be a class C felony assault into a Class B felony assault. Elevating all individuals who are sixty years of age or older into a special victim class is not necessary for the protection of the public. It will also have significant ramifications by increasing our prison population.

Additionally, this bill goes even further by negating the need for evidence of the required state of mind as to the attendant circumstances, in different types of criminal cases, by the use of strict liability. In other words, in certain types of prosecutions involving the victimization of someone sixty years old or older, the prosecution would not be required to put forth evidence regarding the victim’s age, as it would be presumed that the defendant knew that the victim was in fact sixty years old or older. This is an unprecedented change to the basic understanding of criminal law, and would open the floodgates to requests from other groups seeking the same accommodation.

The Office of the Public Defender does understand that protecting senior members of our community is a necessity. However, the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) already addresses that need. HRS § 706-660.2 requires a mandatory jail term for those who commit crimes against those sixty years of age or older for any felony charge which causes death, serious or substantial bodily injury. This current statute should serve as ample deterrence to the victimization of those who are sixty years of age or older, to the extent that laws serve as a deterrence. But the current statute also serves the purpose of a greater punishment which is what the public may also want in these instances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.B. 1874.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DON S. GUZMAN
Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Second Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



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

February 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL
Representative Chris Lee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 433
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: House Bill 1874 (2020)

Dear Honorable Chris Lee and members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Maui County Elder Justice Team, we are respectfully requesting your support to pass HB1874. Today, the Maui County Council unanimously supported House Bill 1874 and passed Resolution No. 20-17, "Urging The State Legislature to Support Bills Relating to Criminal Offenses Against Seniors", attached herein with Certification of Adoption for your review.

Our 2020 Elderly Crime Initiative - "Fighting Violent and Financial Crimes against Kupuna." As part of the initiative, the state-wide Kupuna Caucus has adopted the Bills that have been introduced in the State House and Senate legislative sessions this year. The intent of the legislative proposal is to focus on specific crimes that impact our elderly community: Theft, Theft by deception and economic exploitation, Assault, and Family Abuse. Thus, we believe that these Bills would allow the prosecutors' offices, police departments, and other agencies the ability to focus on Elderly Crimes and better protect our senior population.

By way of background, we have joined forces to create and establish the Maui County Elderly Justice Team, MCEJT, comprised of various entities including the Hawaii State Department of Human Services Adult Protection & Community Service; Maui County Department of Aging; Federal Assistant Attorney coordinator under Elderly Act; Department of the Attorney General; Legal Aid Society of Hawaii-Maui Office; Maui Police Department; and our Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, which has created an Elderly Crime Unit consisting of two Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys. I along with these agencies have sent personnel to Elderly Abuse Conferences and Training on the mainland.

Representative Chris Lee
Page 2
February 21, 2020

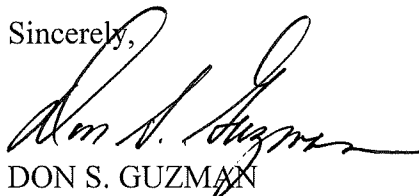
The Maui County Elder Justice Team (MCEJT) whose main goals are: 1) Create and enhance legislation to prosecute those who offend against Elders and vulnerable Adults; 2) Create a Civil/Criminal Team to support such victims; 3) Promote education, training, and public awareness of this growing concern; and 4) Sustaining this initiative through county, state, and federal grants.

Attorneys and social workers are well aware of a growing number of complaints of elder abuse, neglect and fraud, and frustrated that very few cases are ever prosecuted. The high level of proof needed for criminal charges is often elusive with minimal penalties; with only minimal consequences/if any to these perpetrators, they steal from one, and move on to the next one. We as a community need to take serious the issue of achieving justice for our kupuna population. And if we are in agreement with this premise then we must strengthen protections through solid legislation that sends the message that Elder Adult abuse and exploitation will no longer be tolerated.

Moreover, the U.S. Census Bureau projects that in 2035, older adults will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history. By 2030, seniors aged 65 and above will make up 18% of the nation's population. Currently, Americans over the age of 50 account for 77% of personal financial assets in the United States. This group of investors own a disproportionate share of the nation's personal wealth and faces greater risks of cognitive decline and financial exploitation. Unfortunately, 1 in 5 seniors have been victimized by financial fraud, and seniors lose at least \$3 billion annually to financial exploitation.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (808) 270-7632.

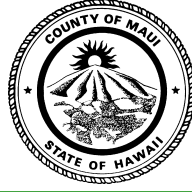
Sincerely,



DON S. GUZMAN
Prosecuting Attorney

Attachment: Resolution No. 20-17 with Certification of Adoption

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor



DON S. GUZMAN
Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Second Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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

TESTIMONY
ON
H.B. 1874 - RELATING TO
CRIMINAL OFFENSES
AGAINST SENIORS

February 22, 2020

The Honorable Chris Lee
Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the attached Maui County Council resolution, adopted on February 21, 2020, in support of H.B. 1874.

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

Resolution

No. 20-17

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT BILLS RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS

WHEREAS, there is legislation pending before the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii to focus on specific crimes that impact our elderly community, including theft, theft by deception and economic exploitation, assault, and family abuse; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2334 (2020) and House Bill 1874 (2020), relating to criminal offenses against seniors, are supported by the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus and the 2020 Elderly Crime Initiative – “Fighting Violent and Financial Crimes against Kupuna”; and

WHEREAS, the legislation clarifies across the Hawaii Revised Statutes that the age of a senior is 60 and removes unnecessary confusion during the charging and prosecuting of elder-abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, the legislation makes certain criminal offenses against seniors applicable regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's age; and

WHEREAS, the legislation steps up from misdemeanor offenses to felonies certain crimes against seniors, including when an assault causes physical pain, when a theft of more than \$250 occurs, and when a person forges a senior's name on a document or tries to cash a stolen check belonging to a senior; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau projects that in 2035 older adults will outnumber children for the first time in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii will soon be populated with more people over the age of 60 than under the age of 18; and

Resolution No. 20-17

WHEREAS, 20 percent of seniors have been victimized by financial fraud, and seniors lose at least \$3 billion annually to financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the development of the legislation was assisted by the Maui County Elder Justice Team, which is comprised of various entities, including the Office of Aging, the Police Department, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the legislation pending before the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii is supported by, among others, the Kokua Council; the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO; the State Department of Human Services; and county prosecutors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports the 2020 Elderly Crime Initiative – “Fighting Violent and Financial Crimes Against Kupuna,” and the Legislature’s Kupuna Caucus;
2. That it urges the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii to pass Senate Bill 2334 (2020) and House Bill 1874 (2020) to allow Hawaii’s prosecutors’ offices, police departments, and other agencies the ability to better protect the senior population; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker, Hawaii State House of Representatives; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President, Hawaii State Senate; Maui County’s Delegation to the State Legislature; Don S. Guzman, Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 20-17 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 21st day of February, 2020, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Alice L. LEE Chair	Keani N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ Vice-Chair	G. Riki HOKAMA	Natalie A. KAMA	Kelly T. KING	Michael J. MOLINA	Tamara A. M. PALTIN	Shane M. SINENCI	Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye


DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

HB-1874

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 9:10:02 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Representative Chris Lee, Chair, Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Maui County Office on Aging is in **strong support** of HB1874. This bill will allow for enhanced penalties against perpetrators of elder abuse. Protecting our Kupuna is one of the core activities of the Maui County Office on Aging. Unfortunately, elder abuse is far too common. By creating enhanced penalties for crimes against seniors and a consistent age at which those enhanced penalties are applied, we believe we will see a reduction of instances in which Kupuna and their family members either fail to report such crimes or are forced to pursue civil action rather than criminal justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

DWIGHT K. NADAMOTO
ACTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LYNN B.K. COSTALES
ACTING FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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

February 24, 2020

RE: H.B. 1874; RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS.

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 submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 1874.

The purpose of H.B. 1874, is twofold: 1) to provide additional mechanisms within the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to provide protection for elder persons who are the target of physical and financial harm; 2) to make uniformed the age in which an individual would be afforded additional protection. Specifically, the bill seeks to protect persons 60 years of age or older from certain crimes by making the criminal conduct against them specifically have more severe consequences.

The Department believes H.B. 1874, which addresses various forms of elder abuse is a substantial effort in protecting our kupuna. Currently, the Elder Abuse Unit at the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office is handling a trial load which includes 34 violent crimes, 29 property crimes and 17 financial crimes. These numbers are significantly higher than the month of January 2019, where criminal cases set for trial included only 15 violent crimes, 29 property crimes and 17 financial crimes. In addition, with this tragic increase of violent crimes against our elderly, we are now nearing the point at which elder abuse cases have increased to almost double the number of felony domestic violence cases currently being prosecuted.

Through a series of amendments to existing statutes, H.B. 1874 will, in short, modify the law in the following manner: 1) if a person assaults a senior causing them physical pain, that crime could be charged as a class C felony instead of being treated as a misdemeanor offense (current law requires more serious injuries, like broken bones, in order for these crimes to be treated more seriously) - this effectively makes Assault in the Third Degree (§707-712, H.R.S.)

and Abuse of Family and Household Member (§709-906, H.R.S. - for parent abuse situations) into Assault in the Second Degree (§707-711, H.R.S.) offenses; 2) if a person steals over \$250 from a senior (current law says over \$750), that crime could now be charged as a class C felony offense of Theft in the Second Degree (§708-831, H.R.S.) as oppose to a misdemeanor offense of Theft in the Third Degree (§708-832, H.R.S.); and 3) if a person forges a senior's name on a document or tries to cash a stolen check belonging to them, that matter is now a more serious felony offense.

Additionally, H.B. 1874 standardizes the definition of who would be considered a senior or elderly under the criminal statutes. Currently, an elder is defined differently throughout the Hawaii Revised Statutes. While most criminal statutes place the age of a senior at 60, there are instances where the ages of 62 and 65 are mentioned as well in the law. H.B. 1874 unifies this age to 60 across the different applicable statutes which will remove unnecessary confusion during the charging and prosecuting elder abuse cases.

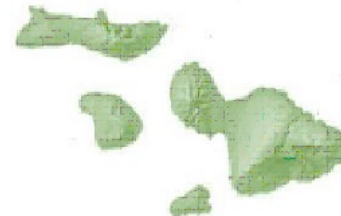
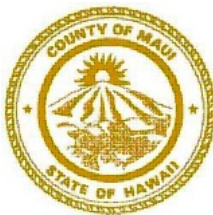
The Department believes that the amendments in H.B. 1874 will serve as a strong deterrent for individuals who are targeting seniors and further illustrate that our State will not stand by and leave our kupuna defenseless. For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu supports the passage of H.B. 1874. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

DON S. GUZMAN
Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Second Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



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

THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

THIRTIETH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

February 24, 2020

RE: HOUSE BILL 1874; RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS

Good afternoon, Chair Lee, and members of the House's Judiciary Committee. My name is Jeffery Temas, I have been licensed to practice law, here, in Hawaii, since 1987; and, I have now entered my fifteenth year as a Maui County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; at present, I am in the felony screening division, where cases are in-taken, to decide whether and what to charge. As part of my duties, I am also one (1) of two (2) deputies assigned to Maui's Elder Crime Unit, which Prosecutor Don Guzman created to address what is now nationally recognized as an under-served area; the prosecution of those who prey on our seniors, one of the most vulnerable groups in our community.

As a Deputy Prosecutor, I submit the following testimony in **support of the purpose and intent of H.B. 1874**, which, in a nutshell, proposes to introduce and then standardize age as an element for certain financial, property, and violent crimes against seniors; further, to make those particular offenses against seniors applicable regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's age.

H.B. 1874 is not so much revolutionary, as evolutionary, we already have Hawaii Revised Statutes § 708-812.55 [Act 187, Session Laws 2011] on the books, which, in essence, sets-out that a person commits the offense of Unauthorized Entry in a Dwelling in the First Degree, a class B felony, if the person intentionally or knowingly enters, unlawfully, into a dwelling and another person was, at the time of the entry, lawfully present and was sixty-two years of age or older. When this statute was passed, the legislature understood home invasions were traumatic experiences for victims and may also be especially frightening for vulnerable elderly present during the intrusion. Further the legislature intended that it shall not be necessary to prove that a defendant knew or had any reason to know that the person lawfully in the dwelling was sixty-two years of age or older. [Please refer to Conference Committee Report No. 32.]

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Re: H.B. 1874, Relating to Criminal Offenses against the Elderly
Page 2
February 24, 2020

H.B. 1874 addresses seven (7) current sections in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, either introducing and/or standardizing the age of (60) as a watermark; if a person commits a certain financial, property, or violent crime against a person aged (60) and older, regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's age, the resultant consequences can be felony level prosecution.

Crimes, in general, are traumatic experiences for their victims; however, one can opine that crimes committed against our most vulnerable, our growing elderly population, are especially traumatic experiences for these victims, creating devastating financial and physical consequences. Hawaii's population is aging fast; and, these proposed amendments are being made in proactive response to a need necessary to protect our aging future.

H.B. 1874 would give prosecutors the [discretionary] ability to now charge a felony, such can act as a significant deterrent to criminals, who talk among themselves; and, if we can have this new legislation passed, criminals will learn committing a crime against a person aged (60) and older carries significantly greater penalties.

By now setting and lowering age, such expands our seniors rights; such is our new law of the splintered paddle; a statement is being made, to the world, this is how Hawaii protects our growing senior population.

Please help Maui to again snare the sun, for all island seniors, so as to shine on these amendments to show the world Hawaii wants to protect our seniors on these beautiful islands we call our home. This is the inevitable future progress of the law; we just want that now.

If not now, when?

If not by us, whom?

For these brief reasons, I respectfully request this honorable body give favorable consideration to H.B. 1874; and, I thank you in advance for any opportunity to personally present this testimony.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ JEFFERY TEMAS
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney
Maui County, Hawaii

We strongly support this bill. Crimes, in general, are traumatic experiences for their victims; however, we opine, crimes committed against our most vulnerable, our growing elderly population, are especially traumatic experiences for these victims, creating devastating financial and physical consequences. Hawaii's population is aging fast, as a percentage of our population, and these proposed amendments are being made in proactive response to a need necessary to protect our aging future.

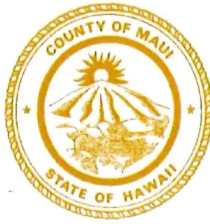
For such reasons, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of HS.B. 1874 and thank you for any opportunity to testify in further support.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

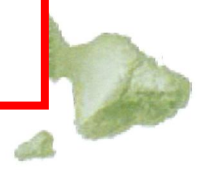
DON S. GUZMAN
Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Second Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



LATE



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

February 23, 2020

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

THIRTIETH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

RE: HOUSE BILL 1874, RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS

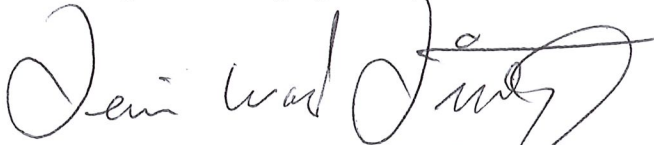
Good Afternoon, Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney who almost daily deals with the aftermath of crimes against seniors, wholeheartedly support this bill which, being based on unchallenged current law, may act as a model for other states dealing with the crisis of crimes against seniors. This Bill proposes to standardize the age for crimes against seniors in different laws that now exist. In addition, this Bill provides greater protection for our seniors by making certain criminal offenses against seniors applicable regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the senior victim's age. These measures strengthen and standardize and the protections Hawaii offers our kupuna. Standardization of age in criminal laws is common sense so that all citizens of Hawaii clearly understand the laws.

This Bill allows protection for elderly that is currently provided under Section 708-812.55(1)(a) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Unauthorized Entry into a Dwelling in the First Degree, where strict liability is based on age, to be extended to crimes against seniors involving violent crime and financial exploitation, protection that the elderly currently do not have. Senior victims of crime never recover, They don't recover financially. They don't recover psychologically. And emotionally, it can be devastating for them.

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Page 2
February 23, 2020

The protection extended to our kupuna in H.R.S. §708-812.55 needs to be extended to the elder victims of these more frightening and traumatic crimes. For this reason, I humbly request the House Committee on Judiciary's support in making House Bill 1974 a reality.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lewis Ward Littlepage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

LEWIS WARD LITTLEPAGE

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
County of Maui, Hawaii

HB-1874

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 12:40:56 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/24/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

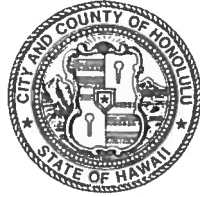
I strongly support HB1874. Please pass.

Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
CLYDE K. HO
DEPUTY CHIEFS

GB-KK

OUR REFERENCE

February 24, 2020

LATE

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2220, H.D. 1, Relating to the Elderly

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

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2220, H.D. 1, Relating to the Elderly.

This bill appropriately provides additional mechanisms to protect the elderly against financial exploitation. It will establish the offense of financial exploitation of an elder and provide enhanced penalties. In addition, it will require the Department of Human Services to share records with the appropriate county police departments or offices of the prosecuting attorney. We believe that this legislation will assist in providing better protection to the elderly.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 2220, H.D. 1, Relating to the Elderly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Handwritten signature of Gail Beckley in black ink.

Gail Beckley, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division