



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2534, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.

LATE

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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:

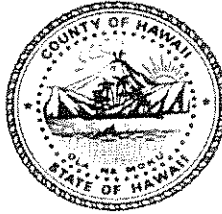
The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our executive budget. This bill would provide funds for services that are provided by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County to help 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
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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FIRST DEPUTY
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2534

A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, COUNTY OF HAWAII.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 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. 2534.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii 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 No. 2534. 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

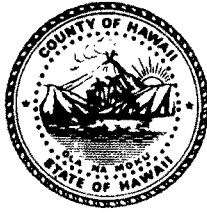
**RE: H.B. 2534; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII.**

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. 2534.

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.

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. 2534, which will provide the funding needed to provide this important state-mandated service to the community in Hawaii County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 4, 2020

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee members:

RE: HB 2534 Making an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Hawai'i

The Hawai'i County Career Criminal prosecution unit has a track record of success, and for years has been a valued part of our law enforcement effort. It was previously funded by the State, and we depend on your financial support.

HB 1739 is also on your agenda, making a similar request for City and County. I see that as an indication that the value of a Career Criminal unit is recognized statewide.

I urge that such units be adequately funded in all jurisdictions that want them, both through the two bills before you today, and in your budget recommendations when those are made. Whether called a grant-in-aid, a subsidy, or something else, the money will be wisely spent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

HB-2534

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:23:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/5/2020 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to continue the needed funding for the staff of the County of Hawaii Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.