



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 177, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019

TIME: 10:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 415

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

Chairs Nishihara and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as 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 and 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 to the greatest extent.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**THE HONORABLE CLARENCE NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawai'i**

February 8, 2019

**RE: S.B. 177; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Chair Nishihara, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, and members of the Senate 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 S.B. 177. This bill is part of the Department's 2019 legislative package.

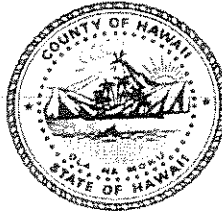
Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Career Criminal Prosecution program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple- and repeat-felony offenders, 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, 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 S.B. 177, 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 NO. 177

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Friday, February 8, 2019, 10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads, Honorable Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, and Judiciary. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill No. 177.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, 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.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the passage of Senate Bill No. 177. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

LATE

SB-177

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:25:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/8/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 177 Making an Appropriation to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and COunty of Honolulu.

Arvid T. Youngquist

SD 14, Voter & Resident