

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawai'i

February 4, 2020

RE: S.B. 2179; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, 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. 2179. This bill is part of the Department's 2020 legislative package.

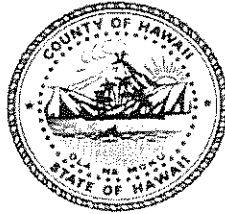
Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Career Criminal Prosecution program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple- and repeat-felony offenders, 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 S.B. 2179, 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 2179

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Sem. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 10:01 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Honorable Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2179.

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 Senate Bill No. 2179. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.