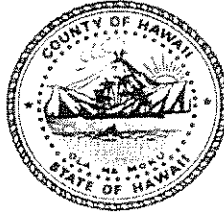


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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2619

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

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. 2619.

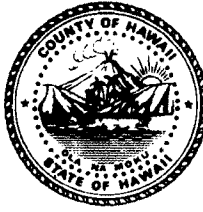
This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawaii for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCP).

The CCP program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed against the public by a relatively small 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. 2619. 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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January 31, 2020

LATE

Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho'omalu/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Hope Luna Ho'omalu/Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2619, Making an Appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County

The Hawaii 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.

SB 2179 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
MAYOR

LATE

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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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. 2619; 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 support of S.B. 2619.

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 S.B. 2619, 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