



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2619, RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020      **TIME:** 12:40 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Shaleigh Tice, Grants & Planning Branch Chief, Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, at 808-586-1157)

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Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

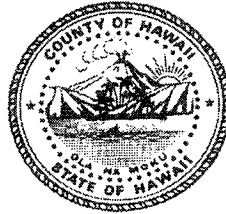
The Department of the Attorney General supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our executive budget. This bill would provide funds for services that are provided by the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County to help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

**DALE A. ROSS**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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## **OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG 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 WAYS AND MEANS  
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Honorable Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 2619.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit (CCP), and is the most critical piece of legislation impacting our office before the legislature this year.

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." Funds directed to the CCP 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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February 21, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 2619 Making an Appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawai'i County**

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 for this State-mandated program.

SB 2179 makes 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, both through SB 2619 before you today, and in your State budget proposal when that is made. Whether called a grant-in-aid, a subsidy, or something else, the money will be wisely spent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR