

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**THE HONORABLE CLARANCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawai'i**

February 16, 2020

**RE: S.B. 414; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AS A GRANT-IN-AID FOR
THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNIT.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong support of S.B. 414. This bill is part of the Department's 2021 legislative package.

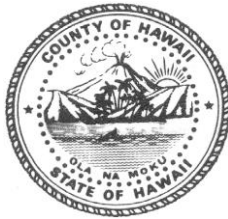
Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the Career Criminal Prosecution program was created because a disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple- and repeat-felony offenders, 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. 414, 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.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

STEPHEN L. FRYE
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908

74-675 KEALAKEHE PARKWAY
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

64-1067 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY, C-3
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
PH: (808) 887-3017
FAX: (808) 887-3016

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 414

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

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**
Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Sen. J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 1:20 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Honorable Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 414.

This measure makes an appropriation to the Department 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 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. 414. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-414

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 4:27:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip T. Rapoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support