

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
Mayor



**Paul K. Ferreira**  
Police Chief

**Kenneth Bugado, Jr.**  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

March 15, 2021

Representative Mark M. Nakashima  
Chairperson and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

RE : SENATE BILL 1286, SD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY

HEARING DATE : March 16, 2021  
TIME : 2:00 P.M.

Dear Representative Nakashima:

The Hawai`i Police Department **strongly supports** the passage of Senate Bill 1286, SD 1, seeking to appropriate funds to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawai`i County for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit.

We are in agreement with Hawai`i County Prosecutor Kelden Waltjen that 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." Further, that the Career Criminal Prosecution 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.

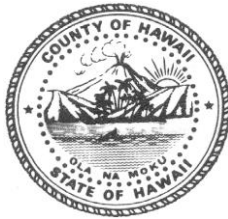
It is for these reasons, we urge this committee to approve this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to provide comments relating to Senate Bill 1286, SD 1.

Sincerely,

PAUL K. FERREIRA  
POLICE CHIEF

**KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN**  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**STEPHEN L. FRYE**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
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64-1067 MAMALAOHA HIGHWAY, C-3  
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743  
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## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1286 SD1

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

#### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m.  
Via Video Conference & Conference Room 325

Honorable Chair Nakashima, Honorable Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i submits the following testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill No. 1286 SD1.

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 placed before the legislature this year.

In Hawai'i County, violent crime trends and property offenses continue to rise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, influx of illegal narcotics and prohibited ownership/possession of illegal firearms and weapons. As a result, crime has become one of the most prevalent challenges our community faces.

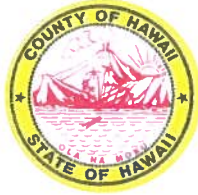
The CCP program finds its origins in HRS 845-1, which provides in relevant part, “[T]he legislature finds that a disproportionate amount of serious crime is committed against the people by a relatively small number of multiple and repeat felony offenders, commonly known as career criminals. In enacting this chapter, the legislature intends to support increased efforts by prosecuting attorneys’ offices to prosecute career criminals through organizational and operational techniques . . .”

HRS 845-2 further clarifies, “There shall be established a career criminal prosecution program, whose purpose shall be the investigation and prosecution of those persons identified as habitual or career criminals. The office of the attorney general shall administer the program, and develop a plan of financial and technical assistance for prosecuting attorneys’ offices . . .”

Since the establishment of the CCP program, our office has used this financial assistance, to fund positions dedicated to the prosecution of habitual or career criminals. By focusing on these offenders, our office has been able to address recurring and ongoing criminal activity and prioritize public safety. Having this funding is critical to retain staff with the skills and experience necessary to effectively manage CCP.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i remains committed to the pursuit of justice with integrity and commitment. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i, strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 1286 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**Maile Medeiros David**  
Council Chair  
Council District 6  
(Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano)



Phone: (808) 323-4277  
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## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 15, 2021

Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: S.B. No. 1286, SD1 – Making an Appropriation to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawaii County

Aloha Honorable Chair Nakashima and Vice Chair Matayoshi:

On behalf of myself and as Councilmember representing the rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū and Volcano Village (Council District 6), I would like to express my support of SB 1286, SD1 relating to the appropriation of funds as a subsidy for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit of the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

It is of utmost importance that the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney be afforded every opportunity, through adequate funding, to focus its efforts and specifically address career criminals and their detrimental impacts to the safety and welfare of our citizens, especially in rural communities. Therefore, please note my wholehearted support of S.B. 1286, SD1 and respectful request of your positive consideration.

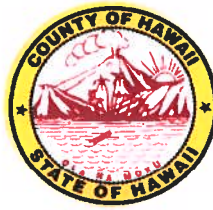
Mahalo a nui loa,

*Maile David*

Maile David, Council Member  
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village

MD/dmm

Mitchell D. Roth  
*Mayor*



Lee E. Lord  
*Managing Director*

Robert H. Command  
*Deputy Managing Director*

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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March 15, 2021

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair, Rep. Mark Nakashima  
Vice-Chair, Rep. Scot D. Matayoshi  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania St., Room 325  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject: S.B. 1286, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR HAWAII COUNTY**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference at 2:00 p.m.**

Aloha Chair Nakashima:

The Office of the Mayor is expressing support for SB 1286, SD 1, for fiscal year 2022-2023 as a subsidy to the office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawai'i County for the career criminal prosecution unit, including the hiring of necessary staff.

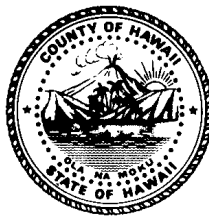
These funds are necessary for the prosecution of career criminals. Without these funds the County of Hawai'i will have to decrease the staffing of the career criminal prosecution program for Hawai'i County and proper prosecution and justice for the victims will not occur.

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am humbly asking for your committee's utmost consideration and support of this important bill. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Mahalo,

MITCHELL D. ROTH  
Mayor

**Holeka Goro Inaba**  
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280  
Email: holeka.inaba@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 15, 2021

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Re: Testimony in support of SB1286 SD1, Making an Appropriation  
to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for Hawai'i County;  
Hearing: March 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I would like to express support for the above referenced bill, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

I would like to express support for SB1286, SD1 relating to the appropriation of funds as a subsidy for the Career Criminal Prosecution Unit of the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney must have every opportunity through funding to focus efforts against the impacts of career criminals.

I strongly urge the passing of SB1286, SD1.

Sincerely,

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HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona

**SB-1286-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 2:12:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb1286 sd1

**SB-1286-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:40:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I support this measure to keep our community safe.



**SB-1286-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 1:19:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/16/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings Chair Nakashima Vice Chair Matayoshi and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs. I humbly ask for your support for this measure to keep our community safe and hold offenders accountable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.