

SB-2087-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 11:48:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Administrator of Mahiku A'o Mai - a Native Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in shock that this did not already exist. How did Hawai'i make it this far without having an [Office of the Victim Advocate](#)? I've linked an existing program to help further your considerations. I've personally benefitted from this program and actually survived something gnarly because of it.

SB-2087-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:58:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/15/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2087, S.D. 2

March 15, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2087, S.D. 2, makes an unspecified general fund appropriation as a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu in FY 23 for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE MARK M. NAKASHIMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thirty-first State Legislature
Regular Session of 2022
State of Hawai`i

March 15, 2022

RE: S.B. 2087, S.D. 2; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian 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. 2087, S.D. 2. This bill is part of the Department's 2022 legislative package, and we thank the Committee for hearing it.

The purpose of S.B. 2087, S.D. 2 is to provide additional funding in the amount of **\$371,722**, to maintain the current level of service for the Department's Victim Witness Kokua Services ("VWKS") Unit. This is the remaining balance between actual costs, and costs covered by federal funds, funding from the Department of the Attorney General, and the funding from the City and County of Honolulu. VWKS advocates assist in guiding victims, witnesses and/or surviving family members through the criminal justice system—before, during, & after criminal prosecution of a case—and are specifically trained & qualified to do so.

Historically, the Legislature has supported the Victim Witness Assistance Program since 1983. In 1986, the Legislature enacted HRS §28-111, which established the Victim Witness Assistance program on a statewide basis. While the statute established this program within the Department of the Attorney General, all direct services are provided by each county's prosecuting attorney, in order to provide the most up-to-date information, assistance, funding, and support services to the crime victims and witnesses in their respective counties. Adequate funding is necessary for our Department to be able to continue these vital services.

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. 2087, S.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.