

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawai`i

February 26, 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 Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, 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.