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THE HONORABLE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawai'i

February 6, 2025

RE: H.B. 393; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe 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 H.B. 393. This bill is part of the Department's 2025 legislative package, and we thank you for hearing it.

H.B. 393 provides additional funding needed to maintain full coverage for the Department's Career Criminal Prosecution ("CCP") Unit. The amount needed to maintain operations for fiscal year 2025-2026 is **\$747,267**. This accounts for the difference between actual costs and the costs covered by funding from the Department of the Attorney General and the City and County of Honolulu.

Under legislation passed in 1979, later codified as HRS § § 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, the CCP program was created as a legislative mandate to address the disproportionate amount of serious crimes committed by the relatively small number of multiple-felony offenders and repeat-felony offenders commonly known as "career criminals."

The program originally provided full funding for county career criminal units. But in recent years, the Department's CCP Unit had to be scaled back when there was insufficient funding to maintain full staffing. Money spent on CCP is an efficient investment, providing swift and effective justice to address some of Oahu's most persistent offenders. In doing so, it protects the public, reduces caseloads, and avoids long court delays. With your support, the Department will continue to have the resources to protect our public from career criminals.

The Department **strongly supports** the passage of H.B. 393.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-393

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:22:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/7/2025 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB393.

Gregory Misakian