

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LOIO HO'OPI'I



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawai'i**

January 30, 2025

RE: S.B. 286; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 286. This bill is part of the Department's 2025 legislative package, and we thank you for hearing it.

The purpose of S.B. 286 is to provide the 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 costs covered by funding from the Department of the Attorney General and the City and County of Honolulu.

Pursuant to legislation passed in 1979, and codified as Sections 845-1, 845-2, and 845-3, of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the CCP program was created as a legislative mandate to address the disproportionate amount of serious crimes are committed by a relatively small number of multiple- and repeat-felony offenders, commonly known as "career criminals." The program, was originally provided full funding for county career criminal units. 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 use of resources, as it provides swift and effective justice to address some of Oahu's most worrisome individuals, and reduces heavy caseloads and long court delays. With your support, the Department will continue to have the resources 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. 286. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

January 27, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 286, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CAREER CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION,
SB 287, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
AND
SB 289, RELATING TO ETHICS ADMINISTRATIVE FINES
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 286, Making an Appropriation for Career Criminal Prosecution, SB 287, Making an Appropriation for the Victim Witness Assistance Program, and SB 289, Relating to Ethics Administrative Fines. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of SB 286, SB 287, and SB 289, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 286, SB 287, and SB 289. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

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LATE

**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
JANUARY 30, 2025**

SB 286 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Good afternoon, Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 286. This measure appropriates moneys to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu for the career criminal prosecution unit.

Everyday retail stores are being repeatedly targeted by thieves, and we are seeing an increase in shoplifting. Many people who steal are repeat offenders who are part of organized retail crime. In other words, they feel that that is their job to steal for a living and sell the items themselves or to someone who can fence these stolen items. These offenders often feel that they can get away with their crimes as they are non-violent and they are often not sentenced, fined, or given any consequences by the courts for their actions. However, over the past couple of years we have seen a difference with the prosecutors taking on the career criminal cases and sending out the word those habitual offenders that will be prosecuted.

We ask that you please pass this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-286

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:06:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Stand in SUPPORT