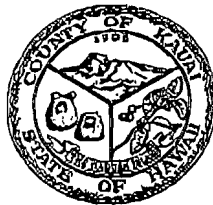


Craig A. De Costa
Prosecuting Attorney



Diana Gausepohl-White
Director

**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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**TESTIMONY FOR S.B. 2433
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNITS
AND VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
Victim/Witness Program**

**Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Donna Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Chair
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
February 9, 2006, 2:45 p.m.**

Dear Senators Ige, Kim, Hanabusa, Hee, and Members:

I am asking you to support this bill. Career Criminal Programs are vital in identifying and prosecuting an ever increasing number of repeat offenders. Victim Witness Assistance Programs are essential in assisting crime victims through an often frustrating and overwhelming system. I have seen many negative consequences from the ongoing fiscal cuts in both programs.

Our current state grant allocation of \$54,193.00 reflects a 19% reduction when compared to the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 amount of \$66,892.00. Over the past six years, our funding has been continuously reduced between 11% to 1% per year. Historically, we funded one full-time Victim/Witness Counselor as well as one full-time support staff. Due to the ongoing budget reductions, we are currently only able to fund 65.5% of a counselor's position and 25.0% of a secretary's position. Additional monies are needed to fully fund salaries as well as for training, equipment, telephone, copier rental, and office supply expenses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Gausepohl-White, LCSW

Diana Gausepohl-White, LCSW
Victim/Witness Program Director