



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

DAVELYNN M. TENGAN
Prosecuting Attorney

BENJAMIN M. ACOB
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
150 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

LATE

THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN HANABUSA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2006
STATE OF HAWAII

February 8, 2006

TESTIMONY OF DAVELYNN M. TENGAN,
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI,
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2433,
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNITS
AND VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Honorable Chairpersons and Committee Members:

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui in support of S.B. 2433, Making Appropriations for Career Criminal Prosecution Units and Victim Witness Assistance Programs.

Chapter 845 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes mandates the prosecution of repeat and habitual offenders who are responsible for the majority of crimes committed in our community. Our office recognizes the seriousness of this mandate and the huge responsibility of protecting the community from the serious and violent crimes that these career criminals commit. As a result, we have committed our most experienced attorneys to handle these

cases. Because of their experience, these attorneys are familiar with the sentencing laws appropriate for these career criminals, and also familiar with the pitfalls to avoid to make sure that justice for the victim and the community prevail. It is very important that this program be funded to afford the citizens of Hawaii the protection that they deserve.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program provides victims of crime with the much needed assistance through the criminal justice system. Without these counselors, victims go through a system that is not necessarily sensitive to their plight. These counselors guide them to obtain any financial assistance available to them, provide them with or assist them in obtaining counseling that may be necessary as a result of the crime, inform them of the status of the case, help them get through hearings, continuances, trial, appeals, and parole hearings, and generally assist in the prosecution of crimes by being the link between the deputy prosecuting attorney and the victim.

Funding of these two programs have dramatically decreased since 1995. Funding of these programs should return to the 1995 levels to have these programs fully functional. We urge your full support for S.B. 2433.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.