

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

# BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 16, 2001

**Committee**  
**Report No.**

01-46

Honorable Chair and Members  
of the County Council  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Budget and Finance Committee, having met on February 27, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-49, from the Prosecuting Attorney, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY".

The purpose of the proposed bill is to increase the grant revenue for the Special Needs Advocacy Project by \$79,666 and increase the equivalent personnel by 0.5.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Director, the Prosecuting Attorney, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The Prosecuting Attorney informed your Committee that the Victim Witness Counselor's position, which is currently a half-time position, is a temporary appointment that depends upon the availability of funding from the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). He stated that the VOCA funding comes from fines that the Federal defendants pay. The Prosecuting Attorney noted that funding is currently available from this Federal source to pay for a full-time position with benefits for at least another three years. In addition, it is anticipated that Federal funding will continue at the present level. The Prosecuting Attorney stated that the funding has increased over the past few years to be fairly level at approximately \$225,000.

The Prosecuting Attorney further informed your Committee that this position supports victims of domestic violence by providing court accompaniment, support counseling, advocacy, and social service referrals. He provided some statistics on the increase in domestic violence cases. In 1993, there were 193 victims of domestic violence and in 2000, the cases increased to

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417 victims. This increase in domestic violence cases is over 100 percent. He recognized that this position plays an integral role as a liaison with the prosecutor and victim.

The Prosecuting Attorney stated that the incumbent is currently working overtime in order to provide the services needed. As an example, he noted that the Department sends a counselor to every family court trial, including follow-up and case hearings.

After extensive discussion, your Committee voted to recommend passage of the proposed bill on first reading and filing of the communication.

Your Budget and Finance Committee RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ (2001), attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY" PASS FIRST READING and BE ORDERED TO PRINT; and
2. That County Communication No. 01-49 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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