

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI  
**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

August 21, 2001

**Committee**  
**Report No.** 01-136

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 July 31, 2001, makes reference to County Communication No. 01-203, from the Prosecuting Attorney, transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI AS IT PERTAINS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY".

The purposes of the proposed bill are to amend the language in the Special Needs Advocacy Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program to reflect uses of unencumbered surplus grant funds in these programs, and to provide for transfers of unencumbered surplus grant funds to the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and the Career Criminal Program, respectively, as approved by the funding agencies.

At its meeting, your Committee met with the Budget Specialist, the First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, the Director of the Victim Witness Program and the Administrative Officer of the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, and a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

The First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney informed your Committee that the request is to permit transfers of unencumbered funds from the Special Needs Advocacy Program and the LLEBG to the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and the Career Criminal Program, respectively. He stated that the latter two programs were receiving less funding from the State and that the funding agencies had approved the transfers.

Your Committee received the following documents, which support the transfers of unencumbered grant funds:

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1. A copy of a letter dated June 10, 1999, from the U. S. Department of Justice West Branch Program Manager, Mr. Barry D. Roberts stating that the use of LLEBG funds for the Career Criminal Program was allowable; and
2. A copy of a letter dated July 31, 2001, from the State Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division, the administrator for the Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance (VOCA) grant, confirming the use of VOCA funds to augment State funding shortfalls for the State Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

The Administrative Officer for the LLEBG informed your Committee that the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney and the Department of Police were applying for the yearly grant in alternating years and then sharing the grant monies received. He stated that there are seven different areas that the funding can be used and that the Department had determined that the Career Criminal Program has the most critical need.

The Director of the Victim Witness Program indicated that money for this program comes from the Federal VOCA program, which is administered by the State Attorney General's Office. She indicated that funding has increased since 1997 and that although it is a yearly grant, the Department has three years to use the funds. The most critical need is the Victim Witness Assistance Program due to a shortage in State funding.

During the discussion, your Committee voiced concerns regarding the State's reduction in funding the Career Criminal Program and the Victim Witness Assistance Program. Your Committee requested that a letter be sent to the Prosecuting Attorney requesting that he provide insight regarding the State's reduced funding in these programs.

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:

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1. That Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ (2001), attached hereto, entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 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. 01-203 be FILED.

Adoption of this report is respectfully requested.

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**G. RIKI HOKAMA** Chair

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**PATRICK S. KAWANO** Member

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**ALAN M. ARAKAWA** Member

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**MICHAEL J. MOLINA** Member

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**JO ANNE JOHNSON** Member

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