

SR52

Measure Title: REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE STATE AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DESIGNATE GOVERNMENT PARKING LOTS FOR USE AT NIGHT BY THE HOMELESS WHO OWN VEHICLES AND SLEEP IN THEIR VEHICLES.

Report Title: Homelessness; Parking Lot Use at Night

Description:

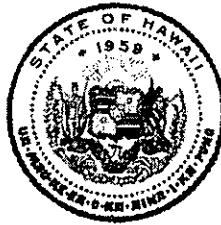
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/PGM/EDT/WAM

Introducer(s): ESPERO, CHUN OAKLAND, Dela Cruz, Fukunaga, Ige, Ihara, Wakai

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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DIRECTOR

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KEITH KAMITA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 95 / SENATE RESOLUTION 52
A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER
AGENCIES OF THE STATE AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DESIGNATE
GOVERNMENT PARKING LOTS FOR USE AT NIGHT BY THE HOMELESS WHO OWN
VEHICLES AND SLEEP IN THEIR VEHICLES

by

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata, Director
Department of Public Safety

Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 11:15 AM
State Capitol, Room 211

Chairs Chun Oakland, Espiro, Fukunaga, and Ige, Vice Chairs Ihara, Kidani, and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) has concerns with Senate
Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 95 / Senate Resolution (SR) 52 that proposes to
allow departments and other agencies of the State and the City and County of

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Honolulu to designate government parking lots to include the parking lots of the Department of Education parking structure at the corner of Vineyard Boulevard and Punchbowl Street, and at the Aloha Stadium to be use by homeless persons who own their own vehicles and sleep in the vehicles, between the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.. The Department's concerns relate to possible liability to the State and City if individuals are injured or assaulted while on State or City property. The Department believes that this issue should be thoroughly investigated prior to proceeding with this project. Another issue is that both resolutions call for the State and City to provide toilet facilities and security at these designated sites yet does not appropriate any manpower or funding to sustain this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



RICHARD BURNS
STATE LIBRARIAN

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Senate Committees on Human Services,
Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs,
Economic Development and Technology, and
Ways and Means**

April 13, 2011, 11:15 a.m.

SCR 95/SR 52, Proposed SD1

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) strongly opposes SCR95/SR52, proposed SD1. While we are in total agreement that homelessness is a growing problem which the State is struggling to address, we cannot support designating our parking lots for use by the homeless during overnight hours. As was the case most recently at our McCully-Moiliili Public Library parking lot, over 30 families set up makeshift tents there and on the surrounding sidewalks. They blocked access to our after hours bookdrop, and our patrons and employees felt scared and threatened when they tried to pass. Our staff needed to constantly pick up their trash, litter, clothes, etc. not to mention cleaning of feces and urine odor. We are currently experiencing a similar problem at our Centralized Processing Center, located at 690 Pohukaina Street in Kakaako. After The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) moved them from the Kakaako waterfront area a few weeks ago, most of these homeless have relocated from those lots to our property. They have set up tents all along our access road and have either

blocked or prevented our delivery drivers from getting their vans into our property. We have spoken to these families, filed trespass notices, and the Sheriff's office has come out several times, all without success. They continue to reside there and present an immediate hazard and safety issue to themselves and our staff.

Given the difficulties we face with the homeless at many of our libraries, allowing them use of our parking lots after hours will only exacerbate these problems and challenges for our staff and patrons. There may be some legal and logistical problems with this resolution as well, which we will leave for the Attorney General's office and State Law Enforcement to consider. We fully support HCDA in their developing a community action team, utilizing the many resources available to the homeless, working with them to relocate, and with law enforcement to move them into safer areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.