

**LATE**

TRNtestimony

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From: Stuart Goldberg <stuartjgoldberg91@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 5:08 PM  
To: TRNtestimony  
Cc: Jenna Takenouchi; Rep. Takashi Ohno  
Subject: Testimony: HCR 101 and HR60

TESTIMONY OF STUART J GOLDBERG in support of HCR 101 and HR60

I am a resident of 1649 Waikahalulu Lane, and I wholly support the HCR No. 101 to be introduced by my Representative Takashi Ohno on 3/17/2017 titled: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY SWEEPS OF LILIUOKALANI BOTANICAL GARDEN UNDER THE SCHOOL STREET OVERPASS.

As residents of Hawaii we recognize that the state and its relevant agencies are doing their best to manage and solve the homelessness crisis in Hawaii. Unfortunately, the homeless encampment under the School Street overpass at Liliuokalani Botanical Garden is growing unchecked and is causing my family and community to feel unsafe in our own neighborhood. We often are forced to call HPD to come by to address our concerns, and the department has responded to trespassing in the garden, auto theft, and breaking and entering a nearby residence. HPD officers sympathize with our complaints, but also have noted that a) residents have gotten "used to" the encampment, b) crime "is not that bad" in our neighborhood, but c) that the area is not a safe place to walk pets, especially at evening/dawn hours. The encampment needs regular clearing and monitoring.

This resolution is a step towards helping our community reclaim our neighborhood and feel safe again, and is needed to help reduce activities below that have occurred or I have witnessed:

Occurred:

- i. Break-ins of automobiles in our parking lot at 1649 Waikahalulu Lane
- ii. Recent home breaking and entering and theft at adjacent residence (police were summoned)

Observed:

- i. Loitering and illegal parking with sale of illicit/illegal drugs
- ii. A "high" person passed on the garden wall at 615AM while walking dog.
- iii. Verbal and physical altercations (i.e. violence) between homeless couple living under School Street overpass
- iv. Homeless man sitting in middle of street on evening of 3/11/2017 causing a blockage and safety hazard of street.
- v. Increased number of people entering and leaving garden and bridge at all times. This causes increased anxiety for my family making us feel unsafe while walking dog. If people frequenting the encampment are "high", violent, and angry, we worry that we may be caught in the middle of an altercation and injured or caused bodily harm.

vi. Theft of bicycles

vii. Discarding of trash in garden; discarding of dead fish at Waikahalulu and School St intersection (police were called to help deal with this human health hazard)

viii. Public urination in garden and illegal presence in garden after 5pm.

The main concern is that the garden and our street is now recognized as an area of "lax" or "soft" enforcement of laws and relevant state and county agency monitoring/overview. As the encampment has grown, so have the number of people coming and going in and out of the garden and encampment, as well as the instances of illegal activities, which appear to be increasing. The encampment is on state land under the jurisdiction of the HI DOT. Regular clearance will help to reduce the foot traffic through the garden and will reduce the frequency of illegal activities: once people realize that there is an enhanced presence of law enforcement and other agencies, word will spread that the area is no longer a "soft" spot to avoid being caught doing nefarious activities.

Again, to be clear, illegal activities are ongoing at the garden due to the residents of the encampment and the increased number of visitors. We do not feel safe walking our dog at dawn and dusk and fear that we may have violence conducted against us. There is evidence of illegal drug sales, theft, discard of trash, and trespassing at this site.

We look forward to your assistance with this difficult, complex problem, as well as your continued support.

Best,

Stuart J Goldberg



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:45 PM  
**To:** TRNtestimony  
**Cc:** jlbriz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR101 on Mar 17, 2017 11:15AM

**HCR101**

Submitted on: 3/16/2017  
 Testimony for TRN on Mar 17, 2017 11:15AM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Brizdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need an audit of the estimated cost of rail in the Downtown segment because the city has not been transparent with all the known risks involved with construction in that area. The city has not told the truth about the construction techniques in the Downtown segment. The city has not been transparent about the Final Design data they have already paid for in the Downtown Segment. The city has not been transparent about the possibility that the rail columns may not be in the places where the Archaeological Inventory studies were done. The city has not been transparent about the Risk Review they have already worked on with the FTA in 2011.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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