

HR-16

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:38:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Support | No |

Comments:

HR-16

Submitted on: 3/29/2018 8:40:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in strong support. As a former (27 year) member of the Downtown/Chinatown Neighborhood Board I have watched the crime stats go up and down. Recent stats show crimes that used to take place in the wee hours of the morning are now happening during working hours. All the attention is being paid to Waikiki and we are losing the battle here. Please support this resolution.

Lynne Matusow



LATE

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April 2nd, 2018

Rep. Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Rm 308 State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for HR16 & HCR20

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

The Chinatown Improvement District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed, in part, to enhance and improve neighborhood conditions and the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors in the area. Our members and supporters are comprised of Chinatown land and business owners, residents, and members of the general public. Our organization supports House Resolution 16 and House Concurrent Resolution 20 "Requesting an Increased Honolulu Police Department Presence in the Chinatown and Downtown Honolulu Areas".

Crimes in the area have been on the rise over the last couple of years, especially assault, theft, robberies and purse snatchings, as well as illegal drug use. These criminal activities have impacted the small independent businesses of this area and their patrons. Elders who shop in the area for Asian groceries and produce are particularly vulnerable. Crimes seem to be increasing in number and severity in the recent past.

An increased police presence such as the community policing team provides by walking the neighborhood and being a visible presence would be of great assistance. Businesses and residents are trying to do their part by calling in and reporting illegal activities, but more of a police presence in the area would also be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

E. Lee Stack, President
Chinatown Improvement District

LATE

From: Angeline Shiroma <ashiroma@fhb.com>
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 6:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: holt1 - Scott
Subject: FIN Hearing HCR 20/HR16 INCREASE POLICE PRESENCE IN CHINATOWN

As a business operating in Chinatown that was recently robbed, I would be greatly appreciative if we can have increased police presence in the area.

We also have a whole gamut of unsavory visitors that come into our branch. Some are highly intoxicated (which we have had to call 911 to help get them out of the branch), while some are mentally unstable, and some are high on substance. There were also a couple of instances where a black male came into the branch and used our phones without permission. When asked to leave, he got rowdy. We feel so vulnerable as we are an all women team. We've called 911 for assistance but sometimes we have to wait as there are other cases that they have to attend to first.

We also have our share of transient people who defecate or urinate in front and at the side of our premise. There was also an occasion when there was a homeless couple making out at my front door. When asked to leave, the female had the audacity to tell me that I am not security.

All these unsavory and/or rowdy characters affect our business as they scare away our customers. It also makes our workplace very unpleasant to work at and that makes it hard to hire new employees. Our office is staffed by an all-female team and we would feel more secured if there is more police presence in Chinatown to deter these people. Just the presence of police makes a difference.

About 1.5 years ago, there was a group of police officers that would patrol the area by foot and make it a point to come in at different times during the day or week. Just that presence made a difference as there were less unsavory characters visiting the branch during that period.

Chinatown is becoming more popular place as there are several popular restaurants that have been established in the area. We'd like to make Chinatown a safe area to work and visit, and also the Chinatown businesses to thrive.

In view of the above, please increase the presence of police in our area.

Angeline C Shiroma | Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager | NMLS#: 607525
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