

MAR 08 2024

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE STATE TO TAKE
ACTION TO DETER HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS FROM RETURNING TO
PUBLIC AREAS AFTER SWEEPS FOR AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS.

1 WHEREAS, many believe that homeless sweeps have failed to
2 address the root causes of the problem; and

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4 WHEREAS, sweeps, which are conducted by the Honolulu Police
5 Department, county, and state clean-up teams, and other
6 officials, target the many homeless encampments in the State to
7 enforce park closure laws and try to force people into shelters;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, critics say homeless sweeps simply move homeless
11 around local communities; and

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13 WHEREAS, some law enforcement officers estimate that the
14 vast majority of homeless people refuse to go to a shelter or
15 receive services; and

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17 WHEREAS, many believe sweeps are expensive, using money
18 that could be better spent actually helping people; and

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20 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court is set to hear a
21 major case regarding homelessness in April 2024, which could
22 have major implications for cities as homelessness nationwide
23 has reached record highs; and

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25 WHEREAS, law enforcement officials have proposed that if
26 after a sweep, prohibiting anyone who received a citation from
27 being allowed to return for at least thirty days would make
28 parks more manageable for at least thirty days; and

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30 WHEREAS, the hope is that within those thirty days those
31 individuals will realize that they cannot go back to what they



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1 feel most comfortable with and will need to either get help or
2 move on; and

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4 WHEREAS, although many homeless individuals will simply
5 find somewhere else, eventually many will be restricted from
6 returning to many of the parks in a certain area and will have
7 no choice but to seek assistance; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the county police
12 departments and the State are urged to take action to deter
13 homeless individuals from returning to public areas for at least
14 thirty days following a sweep; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the
18 Hawaii Supreme Court, Attorney General, Director of Law
19 Enforcement, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
20 Resources, State Public Defender, each county prosecutor, police
21 chief of each county police department, director of each
22 county's Department of Parks and Recreation, Executive Director
23 of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, and Executive
24 Director of Partners in Care.

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OFFERED BY: _____

