

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
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City Council
City & County of Honolulu
Committee on Public Infrastructure
Tuesday, August 31, 2010
1:00 p.m.

Bill 39 (2010) - Sidewalks

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The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) strongly supports Bill 39 (2010) to regulate sidewalk usage to provide for pedestrian safety by establishing a pedestrian use zone. As this bill notes; the proper regulation of public sidewalks must provide access to public spaces for full lawful use. Currently at our McCully-Moilili Public Library, we have homeless individuals living on both sidewalks fronting our building. We estimate almost 30 of them living in tents, shopping carts and tarps as temporary shelters and use our sidewalks as storage with bundles some as large as 4' by 3'. The police have been notified daily of this problem but the homeless continue to line the sidewalks on both sides of our library. Our patrons have difficulty accessing our library, feel threatened and scared having to walk past them, and complain about the stench left by urine and feces. Our staff is constantly picking up trash, litter, containers, clothes, alcohol bottles, and even drug paraphernalia left in our open parking lot. The area becomes even worse once our library is closed where our parking lot, book drops, and lobby entrances are blocked by the homeless. We

believe this bill would make our community feel safe again and greatly help in cleaning up this area for our patrons as well as the general public.

Please contact Keith Fujio (586-3700), Acting Special Assistant to the State Librarian if you require any additional information or have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.