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Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 3:10 PM
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to Bills 6 & 7

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To the Honolulu City Council,

I have just learned of Bill 6 relating to tents on sidewalk and Bill 7 relating to nuisances on sidewalks. I am shocked and dismayed that the poorest of the poor, the Homeless, are being targeted by the City Council of Honolulu with these Draconian Laws. I have volunteered my time among the Homeless and they are living in tents on the streets and parks not because they want to, but because they have nowhere else to go. There are some 6,000 Homeless who need shelter each night and there are only 2,000 shelter beds. Where are they supposed to go? Where are they supposed to sleep? The City and County of Honolulu continues to pass laws to make being poor and Homeless in Hawaii a crime, and none of these laws have alleviated the problem, in fact the number of Homeless grows each year. Perhaps it's time look at what you can do about the causes of the problem rather than punish the victims of a system that is not working. My God where is your Christian Charity? Instead of wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars chasing the poorest of the poor from our streets and parks, it would be better to use funds to provide Housing First? Half the Homeless are working but can't make enough money to afford housing in Hawaii. That's not their fault. The City Council should be looking for ways to help the Homeless not treat them as criminals for being poor. Shame. Please drop these bills.

Mahalo for your attention
Dave Mulinix
Kahalu'u