

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Voting Members:

Carol Fukunaga, Chair; Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice-Chair
Ikaika Anderson, Stanley Chang, Breene Harimoto

Committee Meeting Held
November 19, 2013

Honorable Ernest Y. Martin
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development, which considered Bill 66 (2013) entitled:

“A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ALARM SYSTEMS,”

which passed First Reading at the November 13, 2013 Council meeting, reports as follows:

The purpose of this Bill is to provide persons purchasing or leasing certain alarm systems with notification of the required alarm system permit.

A representative of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) presented testimony on the Bill, opposing the Bill in part.

Pursuant to Section 41-42.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 as amended (ROH), purchasers or lessees of an alarm system designed to elicit a police response are required to obtain a permit from HPD. The HPD representative agreed with the Bill amendments to Section 41-42.2, ROH, that would require alarm companies to provide a written notification of the permit requirement to new alarm system purchasers or lessees.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON DEC 11 2013

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 358

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However, the HPD representative objected to the addition of a new ROH section creating a new violation for failure to provide this written notification, stating that "determining proof beyond a reasonable doubt for a violation would be difficult." Under the current practice, the HPD has the flexibility to waive fees or adjust fines when they discover noncompliance with the permit requirement, which usually occurs when a police officer investigates a tripped alarm. Citing statistics that less than one percent of new alarm users claim that they were unaware of the permit requirement, the HPD representative testified that a majority of the alarm system users are in compliance with the current permit requirements.

Upon further consideration, your Committee agrees to report out the Bill, unamended, for additional discussion as to the scope of the problem the Bill is seeking to address.

Your Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development is in accord with the intent and purpose of Bill 66 (2013) and recommends that it pass Second Reading, be scheduled for a public hearing, and thereafter be referred back to Committee. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Anderson, Chang, Harimoto – 4; Noes: None; Excused: Pine – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,


Committee Chair

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