

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Voting Members:

Breene Harimoto, Chair; Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair
Carol Fukunaga, Ron Menor, Kymberly Marcos Pine

Committee Meeting Held
January 16, 2014

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

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Transportation to which was referred Resolution 13-290 entitled:

“ENCOURAGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A DEMONSTRATION “PARKLET” PROJECT PROGRAM,”

reports as follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to urge the City administration to establish three one-year parklet demonstration projects in communities on Oahu that have an appropriate mix of retail, commercial or institutional uses. Parklets are mini-parks created by converting on-street parking spaces into small public plazas or open spaces that facilitate pedestrian activation and use of the adjoining sidewalk area.

Parklets, which are typically located next to retail or other commercial establishments, have been shown to increase pedestrian activity and complement other complete streets features in revitalizing urban neighborhoods.

The Director of the Department of Transportation Services testified in support of this Resolution, and discussed some of the issues and concerns pertinent to the successful location of parklets. Your Committee also received supporting testimony from representatives of Kamehameha Schools, the Pacific Resource Partnership, Cycle on Hawaii, and the Hawaii Bicycling League.

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JAN 29 2014

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 11

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One member of the public opposed the Resolution based on concerns with locating parklets along roadways such as Kapahulu Avenue, where they may adversely impact an already highly congested area. Your Committee acknowledges that not all areas would be conducive to the establishment of parklets, and urges DTS to work closely with the area Neighborhood Boards and Business Associations when proceeding with any demonstration project.

Based on the testimony of the Kamehameha Schools representative, who indicated their intention and desire to incorporate parklets into their upcoming development projects in Kakaako, your Committee proposed and approved an amendment to the Resolution which added Kakaako as one of the possible parklet demonstration project areas.

Your Committee on Transportation is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 13-290 as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto, as Resolution 13-290, CD1. (Ayes: Harimoto, Manahan, Fukunaga – 3; Noes: None; Excused: Menor, Pine – 2.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

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RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A DEMONSTRATION "PARKLET" PROJECT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, "parklets" are mini-parks created by converting on-street parking spaces into plazas and public gathering spaces; and

WHEREAS, parklets promote healthy living, revitalize neighborhoods, and complement "complete streets" by beautifying neighborhoods, creating opportunities for social interaction, promoting outdoor activity such as walking and bicycling, and encouraging transit use; and

WHEREAS, parklets typically are located next to and designed to be complementary to retail or other establishments frequented by the public and may contain tables, chairs, benches, bicycle stands, and landscaping in order to create vibrant open areas for public enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, parklets have proven to be a popular form of public open space in cities such as San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, New York, Raleigh, Philadelphia, and Vancouver, all of which have established parklet programs; and

WHEREAS, in other jurisdictions, business owners or non-profit organizations typically pay for the cost to create and maintain a parklet, thereby allowing for the creation of public open space with minimal burden to the City; and

WHEREAS, parklets can be designed to be temporary so that they can be removed and reverted to standard street parking if so desired in the future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City administration is urged to establish three one-year parklet demonstration projects in communities with an appropriate mix of retail, commercial or institutional uses; such as, but not limited to, Kaimuki, Kapahulu, Kakaako, Moiliili, Kailua, and Kalihi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these demonstration parklets be set up quickly in a "just do it, guerilla urbanism, pop-up" fashion, and that the administration waive normal street usage requirements because these parklets are intended as temporary projects for evaluation purposes only; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the demonstration project program, the City administration seek and establish partnerships with business owners, non-profit organizations, and community organizations to collaborate with the City in identifying appropriate parklet locations and to participate in the design, creation, funding, and maintenance of the demonstration parklets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the demonstration project program, the City administration develop a City policy, rules, and permitting requirements as necessary and appropriate for the creation of future parklets throughout Honolulu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City administration report to the Council six months after the adoption of this Resolution with a preliminary evaluation of the demonstration parklets and the status of developing a City parklet policy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Managing Director, Director of Transportation Services, Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Facility Maintenance, and Director of Planning and Permitting.

INTRODUCED BY:

Breene Harimoto

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 4, 2013
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers