

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FD1:**

**Resolution 13-293  
IDENTIFY LOCATIONS FOR  
PUBLIC RESTROOM FACILITIES IN DOWNTOWN/CHINATOWN**

**The proposed FD1:**

- A. Replaces the final WHEREAS paragraph with the following:

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the Downtown/Chinatown area is a cornerstone of Honolulu's economic vitality, and can contribute substantially to the arts, culture/entertainment and retail opportunities for visitors from Asia-Pacific countries; and public restrooms are urgently needed to address public health concerns, to improve the quality of the visitor experience for residents, workers and visitors, and to improve the economic health of this region; now, therefore,

- B. Replaces the 2<sup>nd</sup> RESOLVED paragraph with the following:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration provide recommendations for stand-alone and public-private restroom facilities to the Council regarding solutions involving public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area by February 28, 2014, which could also be part of a homeless solutions action plan for the Downtown/Chinatown region; and

- C. Amends the final RESOLVED paragraph by adding the following to the list of recipients: the Chief of Police, and the management of the Chinese Cultural Center, Maunakea Marketplace, Hawaii Heritage Center, and Fort Street Business Improvement District Association.



## RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IDENTIFY LOCATIONS IN THE DOWNTOWN/CHINATOWN AREAS AS POTENTIAL SITES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE URGENT NEED FOR PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

WHEREAS, both Downtown/Chinatown Honolulu are special district areas that offer cultural, historic and artistic attractions and are also places where people live, work and visit; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown/Chinatown area, in addition to being the setting for residents, workers and tourists, also has a sizable population of unsheltered homeless persons; and

WHEREAS, homeless persons have relieved themselves on area sidewalks, streets, storefront stoops and other inappropriate public places; and

WHEREAS, in addition to creating serious public health concerns, this shortage of public toilets in the Downtown/Chinatown area prevents tourists and workers from visiting and patronizing area businesses, restaurants and stores, and results in reduced business revenue and a poor reputation for the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies and reports have documented the need for more public restrooms, the resulting impact upon the Downtown/Chinatown area, and made the following recommendations:

- "Rediscovering Chinatown Honolulu" (November 2006), prepared for the City, concluded that: 1) The current lack of public restrooms contributes to the problem of urine and defecation on the streets and alleyways; 2) To address cleanliness in Chinatown, one must resolve some of the basic issues at the core of the problem: homelessness and a lack of public restrooms; 3) There are no public restrooms in Chinatown. The nearest public restroom is in A'ala Park; and 4) Families with children or the elderly need access to restrooms. Without them, their visits have to be short. In order to lengthen visit times and provide convenience for Chinatown's customers, it is imperative that public restrooms be provided;
- The economic impacts analysis prepared for the City, entitled "Chinatown Riverwalk Revitalization and Downtown Connectivity Study" (June 2012), observed that: 1) The concentration of homeless and street people who



## RESOLUTION

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do not have access to restroom facilities have turned the sidewalks, vacant doorways and any semi-public area into places to urinate and defecate. They, along with the general public who use these sidewalks, parks and plazas, need restroom facilities; and 2) Self-cleaning, fee-based restrooms should be maintained and manned at every block; and

- A City-initiated study on Downtown/Chinatown homelessness, "Neighborhood Planning in the Context of Homelessness" (September 2012), underscored earlier reports by stating: 1) Business owners have been overwhelmed by the daily cleaning activities required to remove urine and defecation left behind by unsheltered homeless residents. Unsanitary sidewalk conditions and loitering issues negatively affect street safety and public health. Merchants and residents noted the necessity of providing more public restrooms; and 2) Public toilets that are regularly cleaned [can be] paid through a community benefits district. Offering public toilets in Chinatown does make sense, but would be better served if it were managed through an existing non-profit or commercial establishment;

and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that the Downtown/Chinatown area is a cornerstone of Honolulu's economic vitality, and can contribute substantially to the arts, culture/entertainment and retail opportunities for visitors from Asia-Pacific countries; and public restrooms are urgently needed to address public health concerns, to improve the quality of the visitor experience for residents, workers and visitors, and to improve the economic health of this region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is requested to identify locations in the Downtown/Chinatown areas as potential sites for provision of public restrooms through public, private or contracted non-profit service providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration provide recommendations for stand-alone and public-private restroom facilities to the Council regarding solutions involving public restrooms in the Downtown/Chinatown area by February 28, 2014, which could also be part of a homeless solutions action plan for the Downtown/Chinatown region; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Executive Director of the Office of Housing, the Directors of Community Services, Planning and Permitting, Facility Maintenance, and Parks and Recreation, the Chief of Police, and the management of the Chinese Cultural Center, Maunakea Marketplace, Hawaii Heritage Center, and Fort Street Business Improvement District Association.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Fukunaga

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 5, 2013  
Honolulu, Hawaii

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Councilmembers