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H. Doug Matsuoka

~~2014 JAN 29 AM 8:04~~ @hdoug on Twitter

28 January 2014

**Re: Testimony in opposition to Bill 3**

Aloha Chair Martin and Councilmembers,

I strongly object to the continual introduction of bills targeting the homeless. And this even after the last two bills (Bill 59 and Bill 7) so transparently targeted the poor that they had to be deferred. Consider also that the bills against the homeless that have been enacted (Bill 54 ordinance 11-029, and Bill 7 ordinance 13-8) are being challenged in Federal Court.

As the changes in law proposed by Bill 3 amount to handing over more control to HPD, it also exposes them to greater liability. Up till now their duties on raids conducted under the authority of Bill 7 were to "keep the peace" and keep homeless at a distance so Director Ross Sasamura and DFM crews could take tents, bedding, clothes, food, medication, identification, and other necessities for the acts of living. Under Bill 3 the police will become sole antagonists of the poorest of our community and bring all of us one step closer to a police state. As convenient as a police state may be for some, it violates the rule of law, as our governance is supposed to be by the consent of the governed, not by the threat of police violence

I think the Council doesn't have a clear idea of how these raids are conducted. It has required teams of DFM, dozens of armed police, pickup trucks, garbage trucks, flatbed trucks with bins, and very often a front-loader on trailer. HPD will also have to develop protocols and procedures for the identification and storage of possessions unless they will be making no pretense of accommodating the Constitutional protections and civil rights of the homeless.

Please abandon this line of legislation and make daring steps to restoring economic justice to our community.

Thank you for your public service,

H. Doug Matsuoka  
Makiki, Honolulu