



A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PUBLIC SIDEWALKS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Council Findings and Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit persons from sitting or lying on public sidewalks, subject to exceptions.

The Council finds that:

- (a) Persons who sit or lie down on public sidewalks impede and deter others from using the sidewalks; thus, they discourage residents and visitors from walking to get from place to place, to access businesses, government services and recreational amenities that adjoin public sidewalks, and to exercise and recreate.
- (b) The prohibition against sitting or lying on sidewalks set forth in this ordinance leaves intact the individual's right to speak, protest or engage in other lawful activity on any sidewalk consistent with the individual's free speech rights.
- (c) There are a number of places where the restrictions of this ordinance do not apply, including private property, plazas, public parks, malls and other common areas open to the public. The prohibition contains exceptions for medical emergencies, and expressive activities, among others.
- (d) The Council acknowledges that there are reasons why one might sit or lie on a public sidewalk. The City has offered and continues to offer services to those engaged in sitting or lying on the sidewalk who appear to be in need, or to those who request service assistance. However, in many cases, these persons refuse such services or continue such conduct despite the accessibility of these services. The City will continue to invest in services for those in need and to make efforts to maintain and improve safety on public sidewalks for everyone. A law enforcement officer may not issue a citation to a person for a violation of this ordinance without first warning the person that sitting or lying down on a public sidewalk is unlawful.
- (e) Present laws that prohibit the obstruction of sidewalks do not adequately address the safety hazards, disruption and deterrence to pedestrian traffic caused by persons sitting or lying on the public sidewalks.



A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 2. Chapter 29, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("Streets, Sidewalks, Malls and Other Public Places"), as amended, is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the revisor of ordinances and to read as follows:

"Article ____ . Sitting or Lying on Public Sidewalks

Sec. 29-___.1 Prohibition—Exceptions—Citations.

- (a) No person shall sit or lie on a public sidewalk, or on a tarp, towel, sheet, blanket, sleeping bag, bedding, planter, chair, bench, or any other object or material placed upon a public sidewalk.
- (b) The prohibitions in subsection (a) shall not apply to:
 - (1) Any person sitting or lying on a sidewalk due to a medical emergency;
 - (2) Any person who, as a result of a disability, is utilizing a mobility device to move about or across the public sidewalk;
 - (3) Any person sitting or lying on a sidewalk for the purpose of engaging in an expressive activity;
 - (4) Any person sitting on a sidewalk while attending or viewing any parade, festival, performance, rally, demonstration or similar event conducted on the street pursuant to a permit issued by the city;
 - (5) Any person engaged in a maintenance, repair or construction activity on behalf of a governmental entity or a public utility;
 - (6) Any child who is sitting or lying in a baby carriage, stroller, or carrier, or similar device, to move about or across the public sidewalk;
 - (7) Any person sitting on a chair or bench that has been placed by a public agency upon a public sidewalk; or



A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

(8) Any person sitting in line for goods or services, unless the person or person's possessions impede the ability of pedestrians to travel along the length of the sidewalk or enter a doorway or other entrance alongside the sidewalk.

(c) No person shall be cited for a violation of this section unless the person engages in conduct prohibited by this section after having been notified by a law enforcement officer that the conduct is unlawful.

(d) As used in this section:

"Expressive activity" means speech or conduct, the principal object of which is the expression, dissemination, or communication by verbal, visual, literary, or auditory means of political, religious, philosophical, or ideological opinions, views, or ideas, and for which no fee is charged or required as a condition of participation in or attendance at such activity. Expressive activity generally would not include sports events, such as marathons; fundraising events; beauty contests; commercial events; cultural celebrations or other events the principal purpose of which is entertainment.

"Public sidewalk" means a publicly owned or maintained "sidewalk," as defined in Section 29-1.1, and includes a "replacement sidewalk" as defined in that section.

Sec. 29-_.2 Penalty.

Any person violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and subject to punishment in accordance with HRS Sections 706-640 and 706-663, as amended."



A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 3. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

A. I. ...
Am Kobayashi
Carol Fukumasa

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 25 2014

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

KIRK CALDWELL, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu