

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Voting Members:

Carol Fukunaga, Chair; Joey Manahan, Vice Chair ;
Brandon J. C. Elefante, Ann H. Kobayashi, Trevor Ozawa

Committee Meeting Held
July 25, 2018

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

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure and Sustainability, which considered Resolution 18-158 entitled:

“RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION’S ACTION PLAN ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH CONCENTRATIONS OF HOMELESS PERSONS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU WHO MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROHIBITIONS AGAINST OBSTRUCTIONS ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS OR ILLEGAL LODGING,”

introduced on July 19, 2018, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to request an update on the status of the City Administration’s action plan addressing the public health and safety issues associated with concentrations of homeless persons in the City and County of Honolulu who may be subject to prohibitions against obstructions on public sidewalks or illegal lodging.

The City Administration proposed two measures on July 5, 2018: 1) Bill 51 (2018) “Relating to Obstructions on Public Sidewalks,” which prohibits any obstructions on a public sidewalk between 6 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. island-wide, and 2) Bill 52 (2018) “Relating to Illegal Lodging,” which prohibits lodging on a public sidewalk or other public area and imposes a duty on law enforcement officers to find shelter space and offer to transport a person to a nearby shelter before citing or arresting the person who is illegally lodging and refuses to follow the officer’s directives.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON **AUG 15 2018**

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **263**

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This resolution was introduced in response to these two measures. Residents and neighborhood leaders whose businesses are located within existing sit-lie prohibition zones complain that enforcement of the current sit-lie ban laws are inadequate or inconsistent. The intent of this Resolution is to ensure that the stricter enforcement proposed by these new bills is accompanied by concurrent solutions for housing, services and medical treatment for homeless individuals without adversely burdening City departments responsible for implementation and enforcement.

The City Administration's action plan to address the public health and safety issues associated with concentrations of homeless persons in the City was first released in 2013 and updated in 2015. The request for another update gives the City Council and the public an opportunity to review how the City has utilized more than \$100 million appropriated by the Council between 2014-2018 to combat homelessness.

In her supportive testimony for the Resolution, the Director of the Department of Community Services (DCS) stated that the Administration will provide an update on the status of the Administration's action plan.

In addition, the DCS Director agreed to report on the Administration's actions to expedite the deployment of solutions involving homeless housing, treatment and services in each of the Council districts within 60 days of the adoption of the Resolution.

Five individuals submitted testimony supporting the Resolution.

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Upon further consideration, your Committee has recommended that this Resolution be adopted by the Council in advance of Bills 51(2018) and 52 (2018). Both bills were postponed to a later committee meeting date to be specified, pending an opinion on the legality and constitutionality of these bills by the Department of Corporation Counsel. Your Committee believes that timely implementation of homeless housing, treatment and services will enhance the City's efforts to restore neighborhood sidewalks and public areas for public use.

Your Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure and Sustainability is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 18-158 and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Elefante, Kobayashi, Ozawa – 4; Noes: None; Excused: Manahan - 1.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

At the 8/15/18 Council meeting, the Resolution was amended and subsequently adopted as Resolution 18-158, FD1.

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