

Bill 73 (2018), CD1  
Additional Testimony

# O'AHU ISLAND PARKS CONSERVANCY

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING TESTIMONY  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

**BILL 73 (2018), CD1**  
**RELATING TO PARKING METERS AT PUBLIC PARKS**  
Testimony Provided by Michelle S. Matson

Aloha Chair Manahan and Committee Members:

As the Court-appointed Trustees of the Kapiolani Park Trust, certainly the City Council is aware and apprised of the Court's 1991 Findings of Fact, Decision and Order respecting Kapiolani Park, which stipulates in part:

***"13. That the metered parking lot at the Zoo.... is not a violation of the Trust, since only a reasonable fee is charged... and signs, clearly restricting the use of parking spaces to park users only, are posted..."***  
(Emphasis added.)

Bill 73 (2018), CD1, which appears to be absent its first Budget committee hearing and suddenly reappeared for City Council second reading just 2 weeks ago and now a third and final committee hearing, is in part contrary to the Court's decision and a violation of the Trust.

If the purpose of this measure is to deter and help prevent day-long parking by drivers with destinations other than within Kapiolani Park as park users, this effort in fact is long overdue.

However, if the purpose is to generate additional revenue for the City's General Fund through higher parking fees, this is not consistent with the founding provisions of the Trust or the Court's findings.

Clearly, the \$.50 per hour parking meter fee elsewhere on Trust lands is a "reasonable fee." However, the \$1.50 per hour parking meter fee on Trust lands at the Honolulu Zoo, is the highest City parking meter rate and clearly inconsistent with the parking meter rate elsewhere on Trust lands.

In addition, revenue generated on and within Kapiolani Park Trust lands should be returned to the Trust for the care and maintenance of Kapiolani Park. This was one of the founding provisions when the Kapiolani Park Trust was established in 1896.

The above can be legally accomplished - not via the highest parking meter rate in town - but by consistent enforcement of a 4-hour parking limit and the \$.50 per hour Kapiolani Park parking meter rate coupled with higher parking violation fines within the Trust land.

With this revenue, and to relieve the Honolulu Police Department from the menial monitoring task, a Park Ranger could be assigned to check the Park's meters in conjunction with being an educational ambassador for Kapiolani Park and its historic standing.