



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

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Honolulu City Council

Bill 51 CD2 (2018)
Relating to Obstructions on Public Sidewalks

October 03, 2018

Dear Chair Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—supports Bill 51 CD2 (2018) which aims to provide unobstructed traversing upon public sidewalks by pedestrians between the hours of 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.; and Bill 52 CD2 (2018) which would encourage the homeless on our streets into sheltering facilities.

Over the years there have been notable complaints from local residents, visitors, and the traditional brick-and-mortar businesses in the Waikiki Special District regarding congested sidewalks from kiosks, solicitors, street performers, and homeless encampments. Some of these obstacles make it difficult and unsafe for the public to walk freely on the sidewalks. As we had previously testified in regards to Bill 6 (2018), we supported the regulation of kiosks that impede public sidewalks and roads, and engage in conducting transactions off the beaten path.

With public safety and the issue of homelessness as two major priority objectives for HLTA, we support these bills as they seek to make the walkways and sidewalks safer for the public, and help those who are homeless into shelters where they can obtain necessary services. We thank the Honolulu Police Department, the City & County of Honolulu, and our partner visitor industry organizations and businesses for their ongoing advocacy and collaborative efforts in finding solutions to these issues. We urge the council to support these measures.

Mahalo.