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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A NEW CAMERA SYSTEM IN DOWNTOWN AND CHINATOWN.

WHEREAS, the Chinatown Historic District in Honolulu is one of the oldest Chinatowns in the United States, and Downtown Honolulu is home to some of Oahu's most historic places; and

WHEREAS, it is important to maintain the safety of business owners, workers, and patrons, as well as protect their property and possessions; encourage commercial activity; and preserve the history and culture of the Chinatown and Downtown Honolulu areas; and

WHEREAS, crimes such as drug dealing, illegal gambling, robbery, and purse snatching are plaguing business owners and residents and dissuading visitors from visiting these areas; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, a former Honolulu sports reporter was beaten into a coma on Maunakea Street in Chinatown and passed away soon after; and

WHEREAS, in October 2019, a fifty year-old man was robbed at knifepoint in the Chinatown area; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, an eighty year-old woman's bag was snatched while she was waiting to start her early morning tai chi class near the Nuuanu Stream; and

WHEREAS, a touchscreen visitor information kiosk depicting the Honolulu mayor was destroyed when someone punched and broke the glass screen; and

WHEREAS, a website entitled ChinatownWatch.com was created by a small business owner displaying people defecating on the sidewalks, drinking alcohol in public, vandalism, such as

graffiti, broken shop and car windows, and illegal dumping of garbage; and

WHEREAS, there is concern about the recent increase in and severity of criminal activity, and business owners and residents in Chinatown are calling for immediate assistance to victims of crime in the area; and

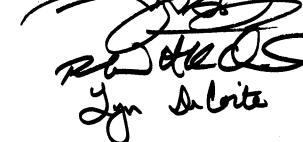
WHEREAS, the cameras monitoring the Chinatown area currently do not work; and

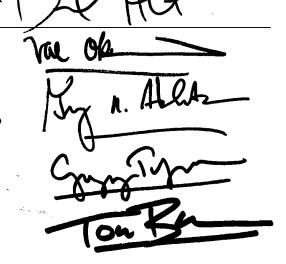
WHEREAS, installing a new camera system in Chinatown would improve public safety by deterring criminal activity, as well as providing more immediate assistance to victims once a crime has been committed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu and Honolulu City Council are strongly urged to install and maintain a new camera system in the Downtown and Chinatown areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chair of the Honolulu City Council, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, and Chair of the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood Board.

OFFERED BY:





H.R. NO.53