

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND THE STATE TO TAKE
ACTION TO DETER HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS FROM RETURNING TO
PUBLIC AREAS AFTER SWEEPS FOR AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS.

1 WHEREAS, many believe that homeless sweeps have failed to
2 address the root causes of the problem; and

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4 WHEREAS, sweeps, which are conducted by the Honolulu Police
5 Department, county, and state clean-up teams, and other
6 officials, target the many homeless encampments in the State to
7 enforce park closure laws and try to force people into shelters;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, critics say homeless sweeps simply move homeless
11 around local communities; and

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13 WHEREAS, some law enforcement officers estimate that the
14 vast majority of homeless people refuse to go to a shelter or
15 receive services; and

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17 WHEREAS, many believe sweeps are expensive, using money
18 that could be better spent actually helping people; and

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20 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court is set to hear a
21 major case regarding homelessness in April 2024, which could
22 have major implications for cities as homelessness nationwide
23 has reached record highs; and

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25 WHEREAS, law enforcement officials have proposed that if
26 after a sweep, prohibiting anyone who received a citation from
27 being allowed to return for at least thirty days would make
28 parks more manageable for at least thirty days; and

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30 WHEREAS, the hope is that within those thirty days those
31 individuals will realize that they cannot go back to what they
32 feel most comfortable with and will need to either get help or
33 move on; and



S.R. NO. 187

1 WHEREAS, although many homeless individuals will simply
 2 find somewhere else, eventually many will be restricted from
 3 returning to many of the parks in a certain area and will have
 4 no choice but to seek assistance; now, therefore,

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 6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
 8 that the county police departments and the State are urged to
 9 take action to deter homeless individuals from returning to
 10 public areas for at least thirty days following a sweep; and

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 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Justice of the Hawaii
 14 Supreme Court, Attorney General, Director of Law Enforcement,
 15 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, State
 16 Public Defender, each county prosecutor, police chief of each
 17 county police department, director of each county's Department
 18 of Parks and Recreation, Executive Director of the American
 19 Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, and Executive Director of
 20 Partners in Care.

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OFFERED BY: _____


