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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to the  
2 2024 Point in Time survey, the number of homeless individuals in  
3 Hawaii living on the streets has nearly doubled during the last  
4 decade. Although many residents may not directly see or feel  
5 the change in their everyday lives, many other residents must  
6 deal with daily encounters when leaving or returning to their  
7 homes, places of work, or while running errands. Many homeless  
8 individuals live on public sidewalks, often directly in front of  
9 places of residence or business. In order to ensure the safety  
10 of all involved, it is important that the doorways of residences  
11 or businesses not be blocked by individuals or their personal  
12 property.

13           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14           (1) Prohibit individuals from residing in a doorway or  
15           surrounding area of a protected location; and  
16           (2) Give county police departments primary authority to  
17           enforce the prohibition.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 708, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
3 to read as follows:

4 "PART .

5 **§708-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

6 "Doorway or surrounding area" means:

7 (1) A doorway; or

8 (2) An area within twenty feet of a doorway,

9 that serves as an entrance or exit of a protected location and  
10 that is immediately adjacent to or within ten feet of a public  
11 sidewalk.

12 "Order to vacate" means an order issued by a law  
13 enforcement agency to vacate a doorway or surrounding area of a  
14 protected location.

15 "Protected location" includes a residence, business,  
16 educational institution, religious institution, or community  
17 center.

18 **§708-B Residence; prohibited.** Unless otherwise permitted  
19 by law, including section 708-C, no individual shall reside in a  
20 doorway or surrounding area of a protected location.



1       **§708-C Applicability.** This part shall not be construed to  
2 apply to:

3       (1) A lawful owner or renter of real property within  
4             twenty feet of a doorway or surrounding area of a  
5             protected location; or

6       (2) Any other individual who lawfully occupies real  
7             property within twenty feet of a doorway or  
8             surrounding area of a protected location.

9       **§708-D Enforcement.** (a) The county police departments  
10 shall have primary authority to enforce this part.

11       (b) In enforcing this part, the county police departments  
12 shall:

13       (1) Not be required to provide any advance notice prior to  
14             issuing an order to vacate;

15       (2) Issue oral orders to vacate;

16       (3) Allow individuals up to thirty minutes to remove any  
17             personal property; and

18       (4) Immediately remove and dispose of any personal  
19             property if the owner of the property is not present  
20             or available at the time an order to vacate is issued;



1 provided that any property removed shall not be held  
2 for future retrieval by its owner."

3 SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section  
4 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
5 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
6 the new sections in this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 17 2025



# H.B. NO. 538

**Report Title:**

Safe Entryways; Prohibition Against Residing

**Description:**

Prohibit individuals from residing in a doorway or surrounding area of certain places. Gives county police departments primary authority to enforce the prohibition.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

