
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 count, the number of individuals experiencing
3 homelessness on Oahu increased by about twelve per cent from
4 2023 to 2024, with unsheltered homelessness on Oahu rising by
5 one hundred ten per cent over the past twelve years. This
6 increase has resulted in more unsheltered individuals residing
7 in public spaces, especially in urban areas such as public
8 sidewalks, often in front of residential, commercial, and school
9 entrances, thereby obstructing access and creating hazards for
10 kupuna, keiki, persons with disabilities, and individuals with
11 limited mobility.

12 Maintaining clear and accessible entrances is essential to
13 protecting public safety, preserving access to essential
14 services, and ensuring that all members of the community can
15 safely enter and exit their homes, schools, and places of work.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish, for cities with a
17 population of three hundred thousand or more, enforcement



1 procedures to prevent domiciling or storing personal property on
2 public property in a manner that blocks, obstructs, or otherwise
3 impedes ingress or egress to private doorways or entranceways.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
6 read as follows:

7 "§46- Safe entrances; unlawful domiciling or storage of
8 personal property. (a) In any city with a population of three
9 hundred thousand or more, no person shall domicile or store
10 personal property on public property:

11 (1) In a manner that blocks, obstructs, or otherwise
12 impedes ingress or egress to a private doorway or
13 entranceway; or

14 (2) Within ten feet of a private doorway or entranceway,
15 unless the person intends to immediately access the premises for
16 lawful purposes.

17 (b) A person in violation of this section shall remove
18 oneself and all personal property at least ten feet away from
19 the private doorway or entranceway to allow ingress or egress to
20 the private doorway or entranceway. When a person is found in
21 violation, a county law enforcement officer shall:



1 (1) Issue a verbal warning, which shall include:

2 (A) Notice that the person is unlawfully domiciling
3 or storing personal property in violation of this
4 section;

5 (B) Instructions for the person to move oneself and
6 all personal property at least ten feet away from
7 the private doorway or entranceway to allow
8 ingress or egress to the private doorway or
9 entranceway; and

10 (C) Notice that failure to make reasonable or
11 measurable efforts to comply with this subsection
12 within one hour will result in a citation;

13 (2) Issue an initial citation if, after one hour from
14 receipt of the verbal warning, the person has not made
15 reasonable or measurable efforts to comply with this
16 subsection and continues to violate subsection (a);

17 (3) Issue a second citation if, after one hour from the
18 issuance of the initial citation, the person has not
19 made reasonable or measurable efforts to comply with
20 this subsection and continues to violate subsection
21 (a); and



1 (4) Initiate the county's encampment or obstruction
2 clearance protocol, in accordance with applicable
3 county standard operating procedures, if the person
4 continues to violate subsection (a) after one hour
5 from the issuance of the second citation. If the
6 clearance protocol is initiated under this paragraph:

7 (A) All personal property shall be removed within one
8 hour; and

9 (B) Any remaining unclaimed property may be removed
10 and disposed of in accordance with county
11 procedures.

12 (c) County law enforcement agencies shall have authority
13 to enforce this section, including issuing warnings and
14 citations and effecting arrests as authorized by law.

15 (d) Complaints regarding individuals domiciling or storing
16 personal property in violation of this section shall be directed
17 primarily to county law enforcement agencies; provided that all
18 law enforcement agencies shall work collaboratively to
19 coordinate enforcement efforts and ensure effective compliance.

20 (e) This section shall supplement and shall not replace or
21 preempt any existing state or county laws, ordinances, or rules



1 prohibiting obstruction, domiciling, or unlawful storage of
2 personal property on public property adjacent to private
3 doorways or entranceways. Citations issued pursuant to this
4 section shall be in addition to any other penalties or
5 enforcement actions authorized under law.

6 (f) County law enforcement officers shall not presume an
7 immediate violation and shall make reasonable, polite inquiries
8 when responding to complaints or suspected violations. At each
9 stage of enforcement, officers shall assess whether the person
10 is making reasonable efforts to comply, recognizing that some
11 persons may require additional time to safely remove personal
12 belongings.

13 (g) For purposes of this section, "private doorway or
14 entranceway" includes but is not limited to:

15 (1) Doorways serving residential spaces, businesses,
16 educational institutions, community centers, or
17 religious centers;

18 (2) Doorways of vacant or unoccupied commercial
19 properties;

20 (3) Service or delivery entrances to residential or
21 commercial structures; and



1 (4) Fire escape doors, emergency exits, and other
2 designated egress points for buildings or homes."

3 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the
7 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
8 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
9 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
10 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
11 of this Act are severable.

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

14
INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1957

Report Title:

Counties; Law Enforcement Officers; Private Entranceways;
Obstruction

Description:

Establishes, for a city with a population greater than three hundred thousand, enforcement procedures to prevent domiciling or storing personal property on public property in a manner that blocks, obstructs, or otherwise impedes ingress or egress to private doorways or entranceways.

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

