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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the  
2       annual Point in Time Count, there were over four thousand  
3       individuals experiencing homelessness, with a notable twelve per  
4       cent increase in homelessness on Oahu between 2023 and 2024.  
5       The State's homelessness crisis continues to grow, particularly  
6       on the island of Oahu, where urban Honolulu has seen an  
7       increasing number of individuals residing in public spaces. One  
8       area of growing concern is the use of public bus stops as  
9       locations for domiciling and long-term storage of personal  
10      property, transforming essential transit infrastructure into  
11      areas of prolonged occupation.

12       In many instances, bus stops become obstructed by  
13      accumulated belongings, displacing transit riders and forcing  
14      them to stand in unsafe conditions while waiting for public  
15      transportation. Kupuna, keiki, persons with disabilities, and  
16      individuals with limited mobility are particularly affected, as  
17      they may be unable to safely stand for extended periods or



1 navigate around obstructions. The presence of personal property  
2 within bus stops also creates hazards for passengers  
3 disembarking from buses, increasing the risk of falls and  
4 injury.

5 The legislature finds that maintaining clear and accessible  
6 bus stops is essential to ensuring public safety, preserving the  
7 dignity of transit riders, and promoting equitable access to  
8 transportation for all residents of the State.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish, for  
10 cities with a population of three hundred thousand or more,  
11 enforcement procedures to prevent the domiciling or storage of  
12 personal property on public property within bus stop areas  
13 without the intent to utilize the public transportation  
14 services.

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

18 "§46- Safe bus stops; unlawful domiciling at bus stop  
19 areas. (a) In any city with a population of three hundred  
20 thousand or more, no person shall domicile or store personal



1 property on public property within a bus stop area, unless the  
2 person intends to use the public transportation services.

3 (b) A person in violation of this section shall remove  
4 oneself and all personal property outside of the bus stop area.  
5 When a person is found in violation, a county law enforcement  
6 officer shall:

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

8 (A) Notice that the person is unlawfully domiciling  
9 or storing personal property in violation of this  
10 section;

11 (B) Instructions for the person to move oneself and  
12 all personal property outside of the bus stop  
13 area; and

14 (C) Notice that failure to make reasonable or  
15 measurable efforts to comply with this subsection  
16 within two hours will result in a citation;

17 (2) Issue an initial citation if, after two hours from  
18 receipt of the verbal warning, the person has not made  
19 reasonable or measurable efforts to comply with this  
20 subsection and continues to violate subsection (a);



1        (3) Issue a second citation if, after two hours from the  
2        issuance of the initial citation, the person has not  
3        made reasonable or measurable efforts to comply with  
4        this subsection and continues to violate subsection  
5        (a); and

6        (4) Initiate the county's encampment or obstruction  
7        clearance protocol, in accordance with applicable  
8        county standard operating procedures, if the person  
9        continues to violate subsection (a) after two hours  
10       from the issuance of the second citation. If the  
11       clearance protocol is initiated under this paragraph:

12       (A) The county law enforcement agency shall make  
13       reasonable efforts to notify and coordinate with  
14       homeless outreach agencies, including the  
15       statewide office on homelessness and housing  
16       solutions and any similar county office that  
17       assists persons experiencing homelessness;

18       (B) All personal property shall be removed within one  
19       hour; and



1           (C) Any remaining unclaimed property may be removed  
2                   and disposed of in accordance with county  
3                   procedures.

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

7           (d) Complaints regarding individuals domiciling or storing  
8 personal property in violation of this section shall be directed  
9 primarily to county law enforcement agencies; provided that all  
10 law enforcement agencies shall work collaboratively to  
11 coordinate enforcement efforts and ensure effective compliance.

12           (e) This section shall supplement and shall not replace or  
13 preempt any existing state or county laws, ordinances, or rules  
14 prohibiting obstruction, domiciling, or unlawful storage of  
15 personal property on public property within bus stop areas.

16 Citations issued pursuant to this section shall be in addition  
17 to any other penalties or enforcement actions authorized under  
18 law.

19           (f) County law enforcement officers shall not presume an  
20 immediate violation and shall make reasonable, polite inquiries  
21 when responding to complaints or suspected violations. At each



1 stage of enforcement, officers shall assess whether the person  
2 is making reasonable efforts to comply, recognizing that some  
3 persons may require additional time to safely remove personal  
4 belongings.

5 (g) For purposes of this section:

6 "Bus stop" means any place at which the county  
7 transportation authority has directed the placement of a bus  
8 stop sign designating the location where public bus service  
9 stops to service passengers.

10 "Bus stop area" means the area at a bus stop occupying:

11 (1) The entire width of the sidewalk that extends twenty  
12 feet before and after a bus stop sign or bus stop  
13 route sign; or

14 (2) For bus stops furnished with a shelter, the footprint  
15 of the shelter, and the entire width of the sidewalk  
16 that extends twenty feet before and twenty feet after  
17 the footprint of the shelter,

18 and any area extending away from the street within twenty feet  
19 of a bus stop sign or the footprint of the shelter.



1        "Footprint of a shelter" means the vertical planes,  
2        perpendicular to the ground, extending down from the outermost  
3        edges of the shelter overhang or roof."

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

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

13       SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

15  
INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 1958

**Report Title:**

Counties; Law Enforcement Officers; Bus Stop Areas

**Description:**

Establishes, for a city with a population greater than three hundred thousand, enforcement procedures to prevent domiciling or storing of personal property on public property within a bus stop area, if a person does not intend to use the public transportation services.

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

