



TESTIMONY OF DAVE ERDMAN
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAI'I

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
10:15 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1957, HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dave Erdman, and I serve as Interim President & CEO of Retail Merchants of Hawai'i (RMH), a statewide nonprofit trade association representing retailers, shopping centers, restaurants in retail centers, and allied businesses across Hawai'i.

Retail Merchants of Hawai'i supports HB 1957, HD1, SD1, which establishes enforcement procedures to prevent people or personal property from blocking or otherwise impeding ingress or egress to private doorways and entranceways in counties with populations greater than three hundred thousand.

Retail storefronts depend on safe, clear, and accessible entrances. Across many of Hawai'i's urban commercial districts, retailers and their employees regularly experience situations where doorways, service entrances, or emergency exits become blocked by individuals or personal property. When entrances are obstructed, it creates safety concerns for customers, employees, delivery personnel, and especially for kupuna, keiki, and individuals with disabilities who require unobstructed access.

Clear entryways are essential for life-safety, accessibility, and the basic ability for businesses to operate. Blocked entrances can interfere with fire exits, delivery access, and ADA-compliant pathways, placing both businesses and the public at risk.

The measure continues to take a balanced and reasonable approach by focusing on material obstruction while allowing for warnings and opportunities to comply. This framework supports both public safety and compassionate, practical enforcement.

Retailers across Hawai‘i work hard to maintain welcoming storefronts and safe environments for their employees and customers. Ensuring that entrances remain accessible helps support safe commerce, protects accessibility for all members of the community, and allows businesses to continue serving residents and visitors alike.

For these reasons, Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i respectfully supports HB 1957, HD1, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Dave Erdman
Interim President & CEO
Retail Merchants of Hawai‘i



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LATE

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

TO: the Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)

Hearing: Monday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.

FROM: The Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No. 11

RE: Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB1957 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee -

The Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No.11 **strongly supports HB1957 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS.**

The Ala Moana - Kaka‘ako area continues to sustain an elevated amount of homeless people. Everyone who comes through our neighborhood can see the problem, such as if you are visiting Ala Moana Regional Park, driving down Ala Moana Blvd, waiting at a bus stop on Kapiolani, having a bite to eat someone at SALT in Kaka‘ako, etc.

We do not seek to criminalize homeless people. What we do seek is a balance to ensure that housed residents, and businesses can live and operate in our neighborhood without an unfair burden placed upon them. The state, and city needs to do more to help and support the homeless community, and it should not be the housed residents and businesses who suffer from their inability to do so. Reasonable actions need to be taken to help our housed residents and businesses and HB1957 is one of those steps.

We respectfully urge you to pass HB1957 HD1 SD1.

Dale VanderBrink

2nd Vice Chair, Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No.11