International Municipal Lawyers Association
2014 Annual Conference
Baltimore, Maryland

WORK SESSION III: It's Their Constitution, Too – Local Responses to Panhandling and Homelessness

Hawai`i – The Land of Aloha

City and County of Honolulu
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Department of the Corporation Counsel

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Hawai`i – The Land of Aloha

- Hawai`i's Culture and "Sense of Place"
- The homelessness situation in the City and County of Honolulu – on the island of `Oahu
- The City's efforts to keep the public places open and available for their intended use by the public at large
- The City's plans to implement Housing First, especially by providing affordable housing and rental assistance.

Hawai`i’s Culture

Hawai`i's Official Tourism Site

"The People of Hawaii would like to share their islands with you."



"**The fresh, floral air energizes you. The warm, tranquil waters refresh you. The breathtaking, natural beauty renews you. Look around. There's no place on earth like Hawaii. Whether you're a new visitor or returning, our six unique islands offer distinct experiences that will entice any traveler. We warmly invite you to explore our islands and discover your ideal travel experience.**"

Source: Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau
http://www.gohawaii.com/

Hawai`i – The Land of Aloha

SURFING



Source: Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau
http://www.gohawaii.com/oahu/guidebook/topics/learn-how-to-surf-on-oahu

Hawai`i – The Land of Aloha

PARTAKE in Hawai`i Regional Cuisine



Source: Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau
http://www.gohawaii.com/oahu/guidebook/topics/learn-how-to-surf-on-oahu

Hawai`i – The Land of Aloha

ENJOY Hawaiian music



Source: Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau
http://www.gohawaii.com/oahu/guidebook/topics/oahu-entertainment

Honolulu is a wonderful place

It's a place where **ALOHA** and **`OHANA** are perhaps two of the most important core values.

aloha

Aloha, love, affection, ***compassion***, ***mercy***, ***sympathy***, pity, ***kindness***, sentiment, grace, ***charity***; greeting, salutation, regards; sweetheart, lover, loved one; beloved, loving, kind, compassionate, charitable, lovable; to love, be fond of; to show kindness, mercy, pity, charity, affection; to venerate; to remember with affection; to greet, hail. Greetings! Hello! Good-by! Farewell! Alas!

ʻohana

Family, relative, kin group; related. ʻOhana holoʻokoʻa, ʻohana nui, ***extended family***, clan.

Source: wehewehe.org

Honolulu is a wonderful place

It's also a place where the concept of **HĀNAI** or "foster family" is cherished.

hānai

1. nvs. Foster child, adopted child; foster, adopted. Keiki hānai, foster child. Lawe hānai, to adopt a child. Makuahānai, foster parent. Kāna hānai, his adopted child.
2. nvt. To raise, rear, *feed*, *nourish*, sustain; *provider*, *caretaker* (said affectionately of chiefs by members of the court).

Source: wehewehe.org

Honolulu:
Hawai`i's Gathering Place

Quick Facts About The City and County of Honolulu

The City and County of Honolulu comprises several islands - the main island of `Oahu and several outer, unoccupied, Hawaiian Islands to the Northwest of Kauai (also known as the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, and since 2006 part of the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument).



Sometimes called “**The Gathering Place**,” Oahu certainly lives up to its name. The third largest Hawaiian island is home to the majority of Hawaii’s **diverse population**, a **fusion of east and west cultures rooted in the values and traditions of the Native Hawaiian people**. It’s this fundamental contrast between the ancient and the modern that makes discovering Oahu so enjoyable.

This merging of the old and the new cultures also causes tension, and sometimes conflicts, including when it comes to homelessness.

Source: **http://www.gohawaii.com/oahu/about**

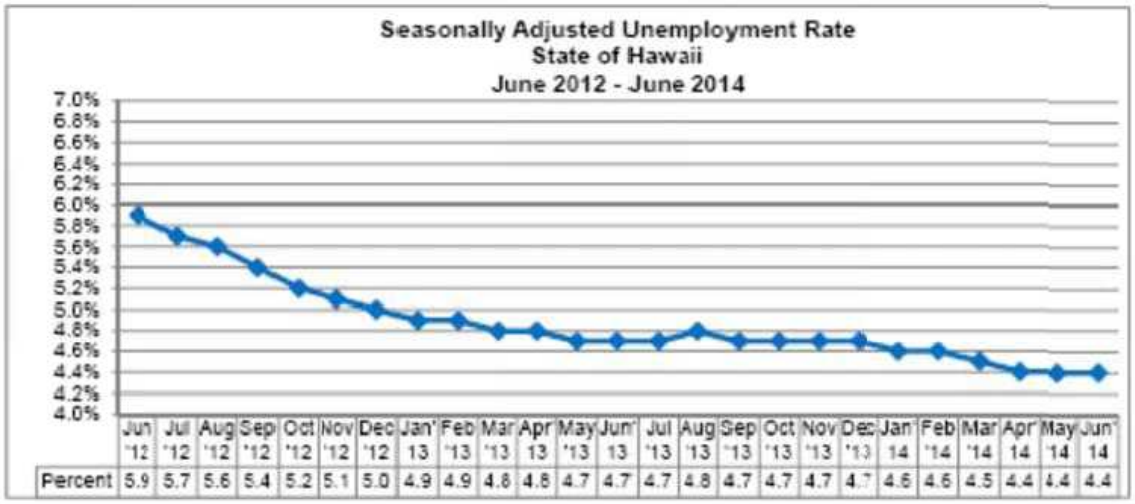
2013 Census Data for Honolulu

Population, 2013 estimate	983,429
Foreign born persons, percent, 2008-2012	19.7%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2008-2012	28.1%
Housing units, 2013	340,392
Homeownership rate, 2008-2012	56.4%
Housing units in multi-unit structures, percent, 2008-2012	44.4%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2008-2012	$557,800
Households, 2008-2012	308,490
Persons per household, 2008-2012	2.98
Per capita money income in past 12 months (2012 dollars), 2008-2012	$30,219
Median household income, 2008-2012	$72,292
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2008-2012	9.6%

2013 Census Data for Honolulu

Unemployment rate for June 2014 – 4.4%

HONOLULU — the Hawaii State Department of Labor & Industrial Relations today announced that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June was 4.4 percent, the same as in May. Statewide, there were 632,450 employed and 29,150 unemployed in June, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 661,550. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in June, down from 6.3 in May.



	Jun '12	Jul '12	Aug '12	Sep '12	Oct '12	Nov '12	Dec '12	Jan '13	Feb '13	Mar '13	Apr '13	May '13	Jun '13	Jul '13	Aug '13	Sep '13	Oct '13	Nov '13	Dec '13	Jan '14	Feb '14	Mar '14	Apr '14	May '14	Jun '14
Percent	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4

Source : State of Hawaii – Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
http://labor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/20140717June-UI-Rate-PR.pdf

Honolulu’s Homeless

Homeless in Honolulu

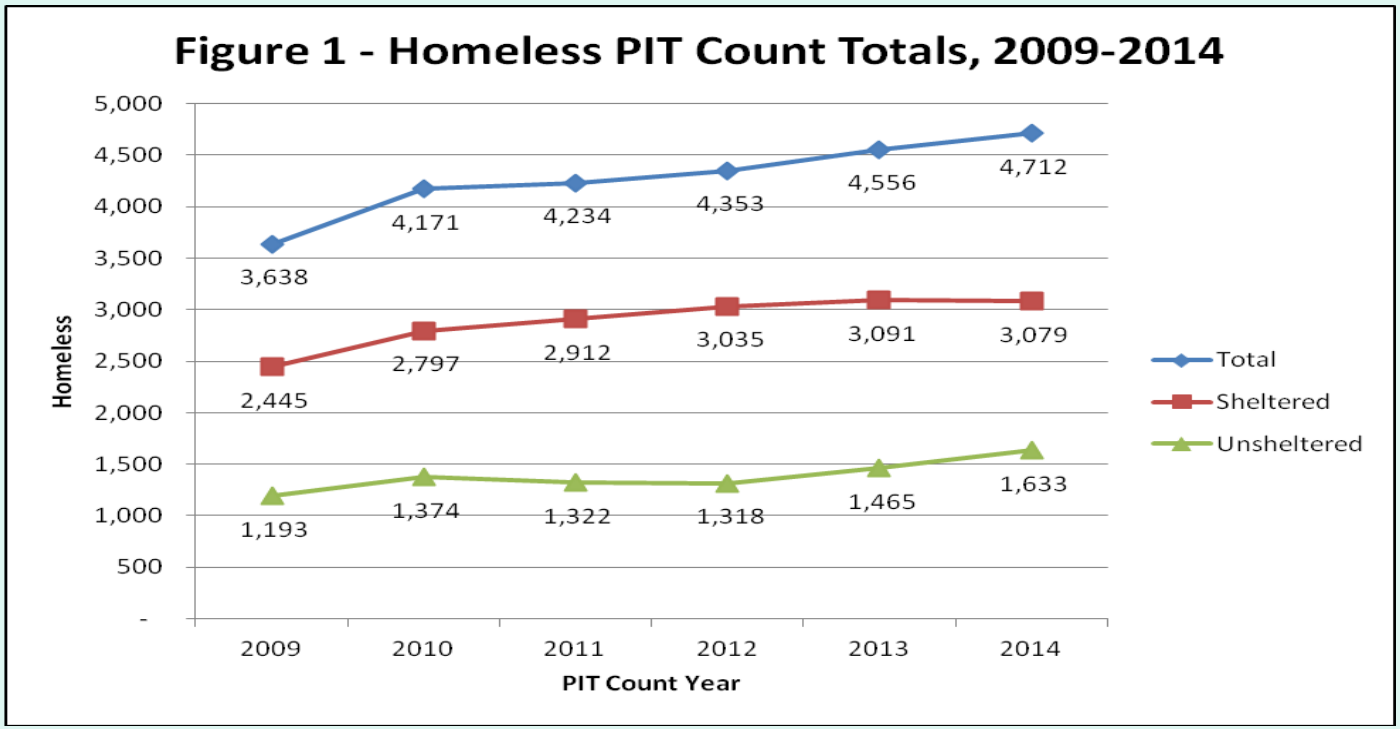
How Many Homeless?

- In 2013, Hawaii had the second highest rate in the U.S. of homelessness per 10,000 people – 45.1 - compared to the national rate – 19.3.

  - The State of Homelessness in America 2014, National Alliance to End Homelessness

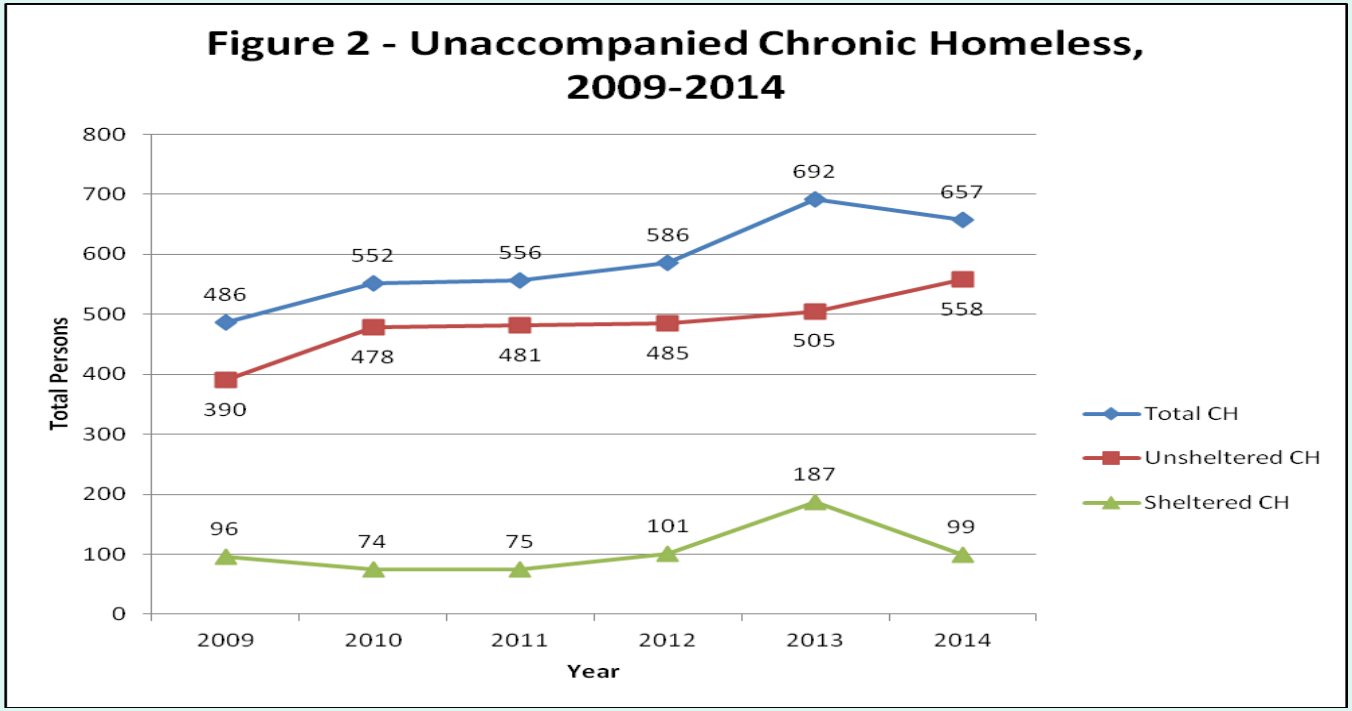
- The most recent available data on homelessness is the 2014 Point-In-Time count, as of January 22, 2014, reported in May 2014 by the City and County of Honolulu to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose was to estimate Oahu's sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations.
- Total Homeless as of January 22, 2014: **4,712**

Homeless in Honolulu



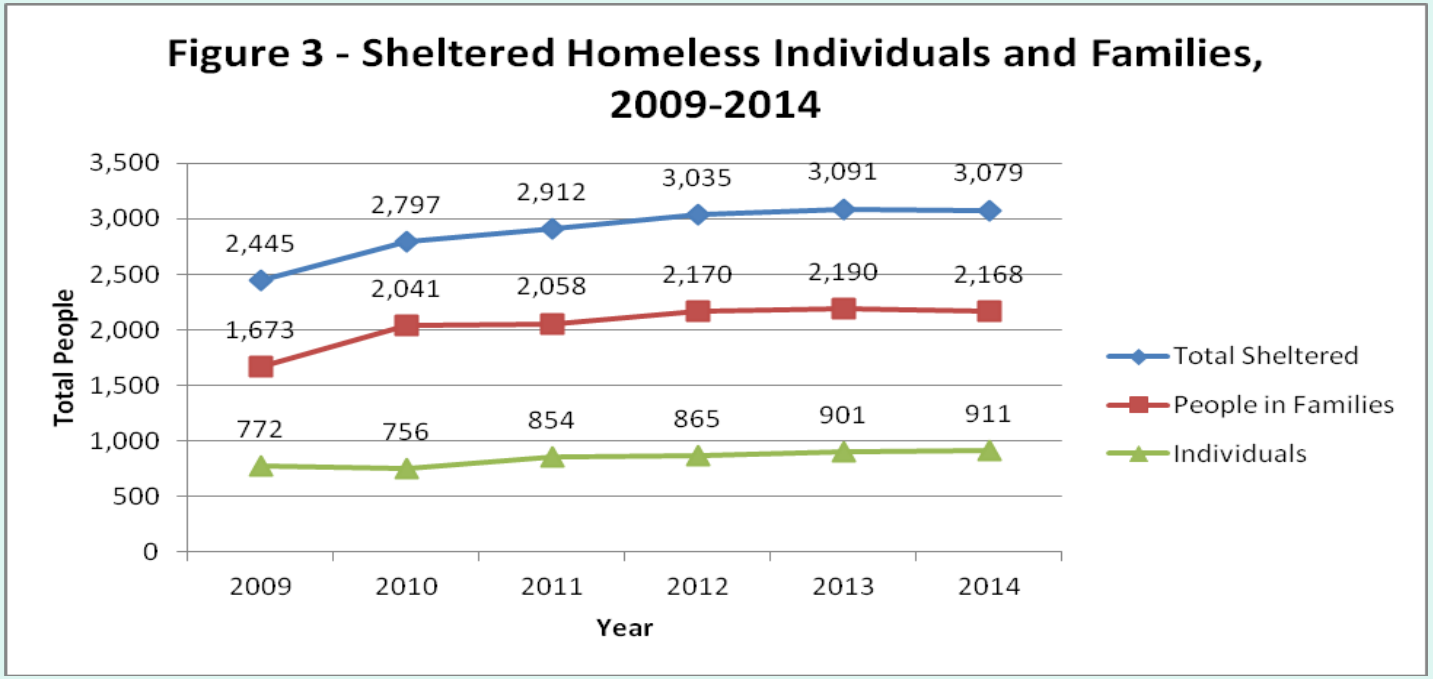
- **Total homeless** (THL) steadily rising: increased from 3,638 to 4,712, or 1,074 persons **(29.5%)**
- **Sheltered Homeless** (SHL) increased from 2,445 to 3,079, or 634 persons **(25.9%)**
- **Unsheltered Homeless** (UHL) increased from 1,193 to 1,633 or 440 persons **(36.9%)**
- **Since 2011**, **SHL has increased** from 2,912 to 3,079 or 167 persons **(5.7%)** while **UHL has increased** from 1,322 to 1,633 or 311 persons **(23.5%).**
- Recent growth trend in the PIT count can be **directly attributed to the growing number of UHL.**

Homeless in Honolulu



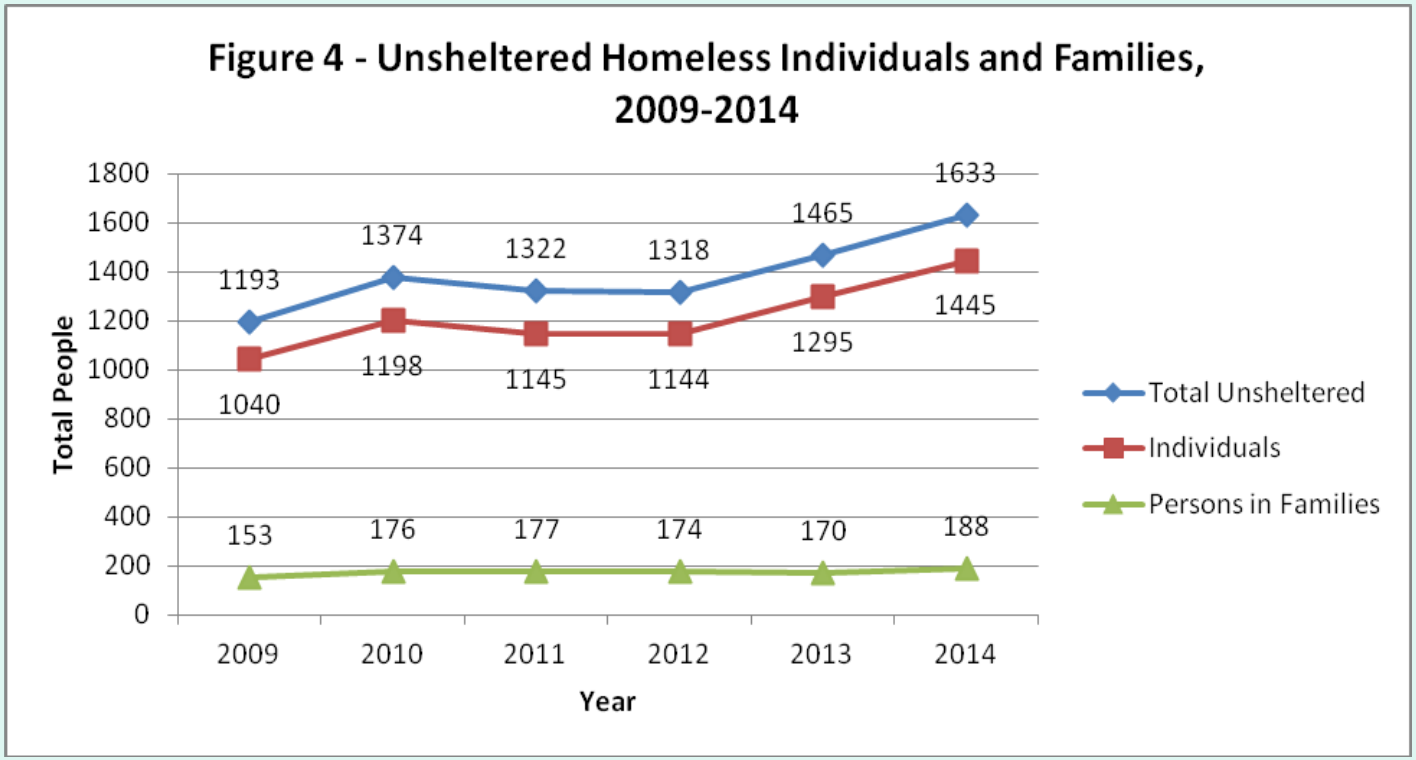
- Shows trend in **chronically homeless individuals** (CH-I).
- **Decrease** to 657 (-5.1%) resulted from a large decrease (-88 persons or -47.1%) **in sheltered CH-I**.
- **Increase in unsheltered CH-I** is largely attributable to the increase in total **single** persons encountered.

Homeless in Honolulu



- **3,079 sheltered** homeless; 911 were individuals and 2,168 were part of 526 households with children.
- Numbers are nearly flat when compared to the last two years
- Indicative of the transitional housing programs on Oahu, especially those funded for families.

Homeless in Honolulu



- Of the **1,633 unsheltered homeless**, 1,445 **(88.5%) were individuals** - an increase of 11.6%.
- Number of homeless individuals (2,356) was equal to the number of homeless families (2,356); but **92.0% of the families are sheltered as opposed to the 38.7% of the individuals**.
- **There are 7.5 times more individuals that are unsheltered than people in families.**

Homeless in Honolulu

- Other Findings:
  - Increase in **Severely Mentally Ill** (SMI) homeless that **increased** by 82 persons to 924 (9.7%).
  - Number of SMI that are now **unsheltered** increased by 92 persons or 21.4%.
  - **Chronic Substance Abuse** (CHSA) homeless **increased** by 14 persons to 635 or 2.3%.
  - Number of CHSA residing in shelters decreased by -27 persons to 295 or -8.4%.
  - **Victims of Domestic Violence** (VDV) increased by 9 persons to 289 or 3.2%.
  - Drawing inferences from the data, there were 106 **children** in unsheltered families.
  - 62 of the 82 unsheltered families were **Hawaiian or Pacific Islander**.
- The City's administration believes the data supports its continued focus on housing chronically homeless individuals. There is more funding to shelter families.

Recent Legislation and Enforcement of City and State Laws

Previous IMLA Presentations re Homelessness and Panhandling

IMLA 2008 Conference – Homelessness and Housing

Municipal Strategies for Preventing, Managing and Ending Homelessness

- Review of the states' 10 year plans to end homelessness
- Links to laws in various states/cities that address certain aspects of persons living on the streets (panhandling, soliciting, feeding). Honolulu, Hawaii is not listed in the review
- Moderated by City Solicitor of Baltimore, George Nilson
- http://www.imla.org/images/stories/pdf/Events/2008Conference/papers91417/ozdeger.pdf

Previous IMLA Presentations re Homelessness and Panhandling

IMLA 2013 Conference – "Homelessness and Housing"

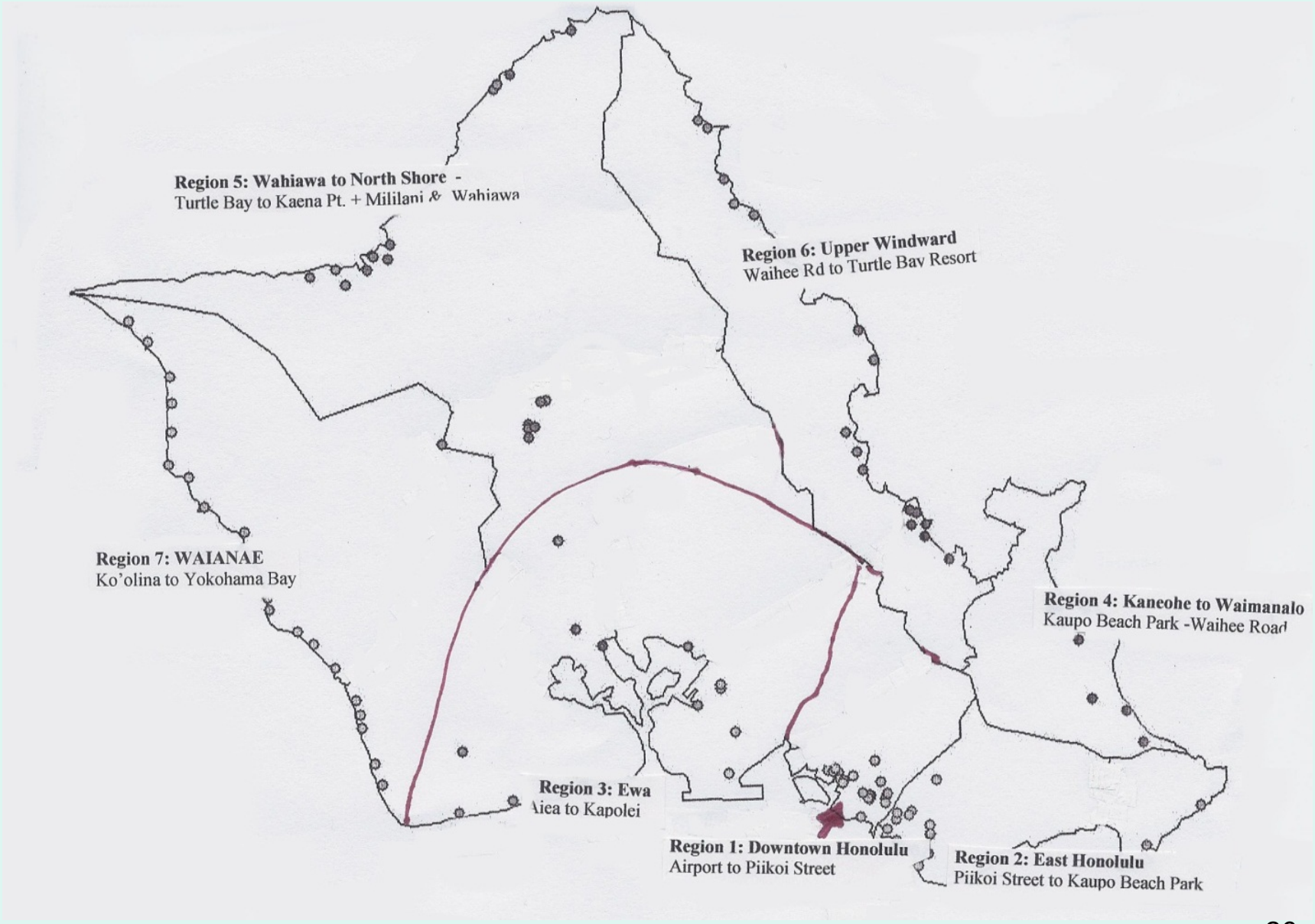
Recent Developments in First Amendment Law: Exploring Panhandling and Invocations

- Paper that reviewed the history of panhandling regulations and legislative invocations in the United States
- Evaluated the status and constitutional analysis of federal circuit court decisions
- Provided tips for practitioners to consider when faced with a request to draft a local law or policy regulating panhandling or invocations
- http://www.publiclawnews.com/sites/default/files/FoxnadWarner-Paper%20on%20Panhandling%20and%20Invocation.pdf

Honolulu's Legislation to Allow Public Places to Be Used as Intended

Need an understanding of where the unsheltered homeless were reported sleeping on the night of the PIT Count - throughout the island of `Oahu:

- *Downtown Honolulu: Salt Lake to Piikoi Street*
- *East Honolulu: Piikoi Street to Hawaii Kai, including Waikiki*
- *Ewa: Aiea to Kapolei*
- *Kaneohe to Waimanalo*
- *Wahiawa to North Shore*
- *Upper Windward: Kahaluu to Kahuku*
- *Waianae Coast*


Region 5: Wahiawa to North Shore -
Turtle Bay to Kaena Pt. + Mililani & Wahiawa
Region 6: Upper Windward
Waihee Rd to Turtle Bay Resort
Region 7: WAIANAE
Ko'olina to Yokohama Bay
Region 4: Kaneohe to Waimanalo
Kaupo Beach Park -Waihee Road
Region 3: Ewa
Aiea to Kapolei
Region 1: Downtown Honolulu
Airport to Piikoi Street
Region 2: East Honolulu
Piikoi Street to Kaupo Beach Park

In trees along the freeway



Source: Hawaii News Now
http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/25385753/homeless-building-tree-houses-in-honolulu

Under freeways



Photo by: Jun Yang, Executive Director, Office of Housing
City and County of Honolulu

On the beach



Source: Honoluluadvertiser.com

In and around public libraries



Eddy says … homeless people do unusual things in there, like laundry in the sink and in the toilet. “A person was actually doing laundry in one of the toilets. That is hard to imagine,” Eddy said.

Source: KHON2 News
http://khon2.com/2014/05/01/hawaii-libraries-struggle-with-homeless-problem/

On the Sidewalks in Urban Honolulu



Photo by: Jun Yang, Executive Director, Office of Housing
City and County of Honolulu

And on the sidewalks in Waikiki



Photo by: Jun Yang, Executive Director, Office of Housing
City and County of Honolulu



Photo by: Jun Yang, Executive Director, Office of Housing
City and County of Honolulu

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places Where Use Conflicts with the Intended Purpose

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty published report in July 2014 titled:

"No Safe Place – The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities."

- Chart attached to the report titled, "Prohibited Conduct Chart," summarizes the laws in various cities:
  http://www.nlchp.org/documents/No_Safe_Place
- Although the chart reviews the laws in existence in different cities, enforcement of these laws varies widely.

NLCHP describes the chart as follows:

"The following chart **provides data regarding prohibited conduct in cities around the country**. With the assistance of Manatt, Phelps, & Phillips LLP and Latham & Watkins LLP, the Law Center **gathered the data by reviewing the municipal codes of the cities** listed in the chart **and identifying laws that either target** or **are likely to have a particularly negative impact on homeless individuals**. The Law Center carefully evaluated the language and definitions used in various codes to avoid including laws that appeared directly aimed at preventing other illegal acts unrelated to homeless individuals, such as loitering with the intent to solicit prostitution or general trespass laws. Also, the chart does include laws that, while not facially discriminatory, could be or have been enforced in a manner that disproportionately affects homeless individuals."

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places Where Use Conflicts with the Intended Purpose

Summary of the various laws in existence in different cities:

- **34%** of cities impose city-wide **bans on sleeping in public**.
- **27%** prohibit **sleeping in particular public places, such as in public parks**.
- **24%** impose city-wide bans on **begging in public**.
- **53%** prohibit **sitting or lying down in particular public places**.
- **43%** prohibit **sleeping in vehicles**.

Generally, reflects frustration with individuals using public places for human habitation and not for intended purposes, such as traversing sidewalks.
Honolulu is no different, even if it is in the Land of Aloha.

Public Polls Reflect Public's View About the Use of Public Sidewalks for Other Than Intended Use

Days after a bill was introduced in June 2014 banning urinating and defecating on the sidewalks, the Honolulu Star Advertiser took a poll asking this question:

Honolulu Star Advertiser Poll of June 27, 2014:

What do you think of a proposed bill making it illegal to urinate or defecate on public sidewalks islandwide?

- Disagree; Unnecessary: 8%
- Agree; Overdue: **92%**

Total votes: 1,503

“Compassionate Disruption”

- In 2010, Ordinance 10-4 (2010), prohibiting tents in public parks and Ordinance 10-5 (2010), prohibiting shopping carts in public parks were adopted
- The tents and shopping carts were moved to the sidewalks surrounding the parks.

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places

- ROH Chapter 29, Article 19: Stored Property Ordinance
  - Enacted Sept 2011
  - Personal property left on sidewalk for more than 24 hours, after notice, will be removed and stored.
  - Can be disposed of after a 30-day notice
  - De-Occupy Honolulu v. City and County of Honolulu, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 71968 (D. Haw. May 21, 2013). Upheld City's removal of personal property after 24 hours' written notice before items are seized, and provided post-seizure notice describing items and location where items may be retrieved.

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places

- ROH Chapter 29, Article 16: Sidewalk Nuisance Ordinance
  - Enacted 2013.
  - Objects and their contents kept on a sidewalk constitutes a sidewalk-nuisance and will be immediately removed after an oral warning is given to take essential necessities.
  - 30 days to retrieve upon payment of a $200 handling fee.
  - Administrative hearing available to request waiver of the fee.
  - Case pending in U.S. District Court, District of Hawai`i

“Compassionate Disruption”

- In 2013, City enforced its Stored Property Ordinance (SPO) and Sidewalk Nuisance Ordinance (SNO) on 81 days:
  - 198 SNO violations, 981 SPO removal notices, and 161 SPO storage/disposal notices issued.
  - 148 tons of items disposed, including 378 shopping carts.
- As of July 2014, the SPO and SNO were enforced on 48 days:
  - 258 SNO violations, 4 SPO removal notices, and 72 SPO storage/disposal notices issued
  - 86 tons of items disposed.

“Compassionate Disruption”

- The Honolulu Police Department has responded to community concerns and increased enforcement of existing laws in Waikiki.
- From January 1 through June 15, 2014:
  - 799 citations issued and 10 arrests made for park closure and illegal camping violations
  - 116 citations issued and 17 arrests made for liquor violations
  - 61 citations issued for living in a vehicle.

Enforcing Laws That Are Intended to Prevent Other Illegal Acts

- The Honolulu Police Department enforces laws that are directly aimed at preventing other illegal acts entirely unrelated to homeless individuals, such as:
  - assault, battery
  - homicide
  - general trespass laws
  - shoplifting
  - theft
  - drinking in certain public places (parks, streets or sidewalks, pubic school grounds, public off-street parking areas)
  - disorderly conduct
  - harassment

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places Where Use Conflicts with the Intended Purpose

- ROH Chapter 29, Article 17: Aggressive Panhandling
  - Enacted 2008
  - Applies within 10 feet of an ATM or check cashing business

Prohibiting Certain Conduct in Public Places Where Use Conflicts with the Intended Purpose

- June – August 2014: City Council considered 3 different **Sit/Lie Bills** that would make it unlawful to sit or lie on a public sidewalk:
- Bill 42 (2014) – Within the Waikiki Special District, 24/7. Waikiki is open 24 hours. Hotel liquor licenses allow establishments to serve liquor and stay open until 4 am; parks open at 5 am.
- Bill 45 (2014) – Islandwide.
- Bill 48 (2014) – On sidewalks on both sides of streets abutting business zoned districts, from 5 am – 11 pm. Purpose: to allow customers to have access to, and to be able to, patronize business establishments.

Constitutional Concerns re Sit-Lie Bills

- Mindful of the applicable federal constitutional and corresponding state constitutional provisions, including:
  - the First Amendment
  - the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments
  - the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause
  - the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution

  and the Hawaii state constitutional counterparts to those provisions.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decisions re Sit-Lie Laws

- Roulette v. City of Seattle, 97 F.3d 300 (9th Cir. 1996)
  - Prohibited sitting or lying down upon a public sidewalk during the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in commercial zones.
  - determined on a facial challenge that sitting, lying or sleeping on the sidewalk is not a form of conduct integral to, or commonly associated with, expression, such that the ordinance poses a risk to free expression
  - rejected a constitutional challenge on the sidewalk on substantive due process grounds, finding that the ordinance, on its face, did not violate the substantive due process provision of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decisions re Sit-Lie Laws

- Jones v. City of Los Angeles, 444 F.3d 1118 (9th Cir. 2006), vacated, 505 F.3d 1006 (9th Cir. 2007).
  - Prohibited sitting or lying down upon a public sidewalk 24/7 throughout the City of Los Angeles
  - Found an Eighth Amendment violation when the City of Los Angeles attempted to enforce its ordinance against the homeless who were unable to avoid violating the sit-lie ordinance due to insufficient shelter space in Los Angeles.
  - On remand to District Court, parties settled, resulting in 9th Circuit decision being vacated

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decisions re Sit-Lie Laws

- Lavan v City of Los Angeles, 693 F.3d 1022 (9th Cir. 2012); cert denied 2013.
  - Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights violations where City employees seized and immediately destroyed briefly unattended personal possessions.
- Bell v. City of Boise, 709 F.3d 890 (9th Cir. 2013).
  - Ordinance prohibited camping on public places, including sidewalks
  - Plaintiffs were cited for violating the ordinance. The Court did not render a ruling concerning the Eighth Amendment as it applied to the "no-camping" ordinance but remanded to the trial court to rule on the applicability of the Eighth Amendment as applied to nighttime enforcement of the no-camping ordinance.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decisions re Sit-Lie Laws

- Bottom Line: The involuntary conduct occurs, and therefore the status of homelessness is implicated, when the homeless cannot avoid violating the ordinances due to their inability to find shelter because of insufficient shelter space.
- Sit-Lie Laws that are geographically and limited in applicability stand a better chance of surviving constitutional challenges
- Sit-Lie Laws have survived challenges in other jurisdictions, and District Courts in the 9th Circuit, based on overbreadth, vagueness, substantive due process and/or equal protection grounds.

Prohibiting Urinating and Defecating in Public Places

- Hawaii State Law prohibits urinating and defecating in Chinatown/Downtown area – high number of homeless individuals
- June – August 2014: City Council considered 2 bills that would prohibit urinating and defecating in other places, based on public health and safety considerations.
  - Bill 43 (2014) - Waikiki
  - Bill 46 (2014) – islandwide
- Honolulu's sit-lie bills and urinating/defecating bills were deferred by the Council in July

Honolulu Star Advertiser Poll of July 27, 2014:

Do you agree with the City Council's deferral of the "sit-lie" bills, which are aimed at keeping sidewalks clear?

- Yes, more info needed (14%, 152 Votes)
- No, need a law now (**86%,** 899 Votes)

Total Votes: 1,051

2014 Case Updates

- Desertrain v. City of Los Angeles (9th Cir., June 19, 2014). Panel :
  - reversed the district court's summary judgment in an action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 challenging the constitutionality of a Los Angeles law that prohibits the use of a vehicle "as living quarters either overnight, day-by-day, or otherwise."
  - held that the law provides inadequate notice of the unlawful conduct it proscribes and opens the door to discriminatory enforcement against the homeless and the poor.
  - held that the law violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and is an unconstitutionally vague statute.

2014 Case Updates

- Thayer v. City of Worcester (1st Circuit June 19, 2014) (Decision by Assoc. Justice Souter, sitting by designation)
  - Court affirmed district court's denial of a preliminary injunction against enforcing two city ordinances prohibiting coercive or risky behavior by panhandlers, other solicitors, and demonstrators seeking the attention of motor vehicle drivers

Honolulu’s Housing First

The Solution: Housing First

- Housing is expensive in Honolulu.
- In June 2014, the median price of a single-family home on Oahu was $700,000.
- The median price of a condominium unit on Oahu was $360,000.

Source: Prudential Locations, LLC

The Solution: Housing First

- Mayor Caldwell has made combating homelessness – not the homeless - a top priority.
- Housing First will be implemented through
  - $3 million in general funds:
    - provide shelter first for the chronically homeless
    - provide wrap-around services in their homes
    - offer assistance with mental illness, substance abuse, job training, and other life skills
  - providing rental assistance ($1.32 million),
  - providing supportive services ($1.43 million)
  - administrative expenses ($250,000)
- focused at placing chronically homeless individuals and families in Waikiki, Chinatown, and Leeward O‘ahu.

Constructive Ways to Address Homelessness

- Rental assistance will complement the City's "Rent-to-Work" program, which provides rental assistance and supportive services similar to Housing First, with a workforce development component included. Rent-to-Work was first implemented in 2009 and currently serves 89 previously homeless families and children at a cost of $1.3 million in FY14.
- $8.2 million in Affordable Housing Fund money will be used to partner with private developers to acquire or renovate approximately 60 housing units in Chinatown, Waikiki, and Leeward O'ahu to serve as Housing First units and affordable housing for those making 50% or below the area median income in perpetuity.

Constructive Ways to Address Homelessness

- $4 million in Affordable Housing Funds will be used to acquire and renovate existing units, or partner with private developers in existing or new construction of mixed-income properties in Waikiki to be used to house Housing First clients and those making 50% or below the area median income in perpetuity.
- $32 million in General Obligation Bonds - to acquire and renovate 200 to 250 units to house Housing First clients and mixed-income families and individuals in Waikiki, Chinatown, and Leeward O‘ahu. These bonds will include $20 million in interest and the debt service will be paid off over twenty years. The money cannot be used for supportive services for the units’ future clients and can only be used for the acquisition or renovation of properties.
- City already implements HUD’s Section 8 Housing Assistance and CDBG programs.

NYTimes article

In an interview in his City Hall offices, Mr. Caldwell said that many of the homeless are people who were **drawn here from the mainland by the promise of balmy weather, only to encounter some of the highest housing costs in the nation and no family nearby to help them through tough times**.

In addition to seizing the belongings of homeless people, Honolulu is closing public parks at night and banning tents and lean-tos in public spaces. The City Council last week began debating legislation that would authorize the police to roust anyone found lying or sleeping on a sidewalk or in a public space; a second law would impose fines of up to $1,000, or 30 days in jail, for public urination or defecation in the beachfront neighborhood of Waikiki. The council also authorized a $47 million program to create low-cost housing.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that in 2013 there were 6,335 homeless people in Hawaii, a state of just 1.4 million, and that the state had the second highest proportion of unsheltered homeless individuals, after California. Honolulu is hardly alone in its struggle with rising homelessness and in taking measures to get people off the street. Similar legislation has been proposed in Portland, Ore., Tucson and Los Angeles, as well as communities in Florida, another state whose warm climate is inviting to both homeless people and tourists.

“It is generally true in sunshine tourist states that there is a war going on between tourism and development versus helping the homeless,” said Michael Stoops, director of community organizing for the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Mr. Caldwell said Honolulu was trying to find sensitive ways to deal with the problem, and pointed to the city’s investment in housing. But he acknowledged the efforts have fallen short.

“We haven’t eliminated the visual impact of homelessness,” Mr. Caldwell said. “When visitors come here, they want to see their paradise. They don’t want to see homeless people sleeping in parks or on sidewalks or on the beach.”

He continued, “I want to do this in a constitutional way, a human way, but I want to do it. We need to do it. I call it **compassionate disruption — we are not doing it without heart**.”

Source: New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/23/us/honolulu-shores-up-tourism-with-crackdown-on-homeless.html?_r=0

Land of Aloha

aloha

Aloha, love, affection, ***compassion***, ***mercy***, ***sympathy***, pity, ***kindness***, sentiment, grace, ***charity***; greeting, salutation, regards; sweetheart, lover, loved one; beloved, loving, kind, compassionate, charitable, lovable; to love, be fond of; to show kindness, mercy, pity, charity, affection; to venerate; to remember with affection; to greet, hail. Greetings! Hello! Good-by! Farewell! Alas!

‘ohana

Family, relative, kin group; related. ‘Ohana holo‘oko‘a, ‘ohana nui, ***extended family***, clan.

Source: wehewehe.org

Mahalo! (Thank you!)

mahalo

1. Thanks, gratitude; to thank. Mahalo nui loa, thanks [you] very much.
‘Ōlelo mahalo, compliment. Mahalo ā nui, thanks very much.

2. Admiration, praise, esteem, regards, respects; to admire, praise, appreciate.

Source: wehewehe.org