



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email: cdjou@honolulu.gov

Web: www.honolulu.gov/council/d4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2008

For More Information, Please Contact:

Councilmember Charles K. Djou

Phone: (808) 265-2858

COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY COUNCIL POISED TO ENACT ATM PANHANDLING LEGISLATION

Tomorrow, the Honolulu City Council is expected to pass Bill 81 (2007), introduced by City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), explicitly banning aggressive panhandling within 10 feet of an automated teller machine (ATM) throughout Oahu.

“I am happy that the City is proactively taking a step toward making Oahu just a little safer from con artists and identity thieves by prohibiting panhandling with 10 feet of an ATM. I am under no illusion that my bill will suddenly fix crime or solve homelessness. My legislation, however, will help protect residents and visitors alike from an increasing problem of being intimidated when taking money from an ATM,” stated Councilmember Djou.

Councilmember Djou’s bill is based on legislation already enacted in Denver, CO and Minneapolis, MN. Multiple cities across the nation including Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, Chicago, IL, Memphis, TN and even Berkley, CA, have passed laws similar to Djou’s proposal.

Only “aggressive” panhandling where an ATM user is accosted and money is directly solicited will be banned under Djou’s bill. Passive activities such as sitting with a sign asking for money or playing a musical instrument with a hat out will not be barred by the new legislation.

Councilmember Djou introduced his bill after a resolution was passed by the Waikiki Neighborhood Board last fall complaining about problems with aggressive panhandling around ATMs in Waikiki. Foreign visitors to Waikiki unfortunately appear to be particularly favorite targets for intimidation by con artists.

#