



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CLEAN UP ILLEGAL CAMPING IN KAPIOLANI PARK NOW

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) reacted to Bill 42 (2008) becoming law.

“For the past several months, the City has been unable to enforce its anti-camping ordinances because of a Hawaii Supreme Court ruling that found that the City’s old rules on camping were unconstitutional. I commend the mayor for signing Bill 42, unanimously passed by the Honolulu City Council. I urge the administration to immediately begin enforcing the law, starting with Kapiolani Park,” stated Councilmember Djou. “Homelessness is a major issue that will not be solved with any one park clean up, but that is not an excuse to allow illegal camping in one of our community’s most historic and beautiful parks located at the heart of our tourism industry. Kapiolani Park and the community deserve better.”

Last year, as the result of a lawsuit filed by the ACLU, the Hawaii Supreme Court found Honolulu’s old camping ordinance was constitutionally vague because it could not distinguish between an individual who was illegally camped and an individual using camping as a means to protest the City’s housing policies. Since the Hawaii Supreme Court’s ruling, the City has not enforced its illegal camping ordinances. Last month, Bill 42 (2008) was passed by the Honolulu City Council to correct the issues raised by the Hawaii Supreme Court and finally allow the City government to again enforce the law on illegal camping in City parks.

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