

BILL013(25)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 144

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS)

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS) Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 6, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 0

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Mar 5, 2025 @ 11:03 PM

TO: Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Customer Services

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
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DATE: Thursday, March 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Bill 13, Real Property and Police Inspection – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Okimoto and Councilmembers,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 13, which would allow owners to authorize police to inspect property that is rented out *without the requirement of a warrant*.

It was stated during first reading of this bill that landlords already have the right to authorize police to inspect a tenant's property via a letter of request. HRS Chapter 521 was cited during that discussion. I asked for a specific citation after the meeting but did not receive a reply. I note the following, however:

- HRS Sec. 521-53 relates to access.
 - “(a) The tenant shall not unreasonably withhold the tenant's consent to the landlord to enter into the dwelling unit in order to inspect the premises; make necessary or agreed repairs, decorations, alterations, or improvements; supply services as agreed; or exhibit the dwelling unit to prospective purchasers, mortgagees, or tenants.
 - “(b) The landlord shall not abuse this right of access nor use it to harass the tenant. Except in case of emergency or where impracticable to do so, the landlord shall give the tenant at least two days [sic] notice of the landlord's intent to enter and shall enter only during reasonable hours.
 - “(c) **The landlord shall have no other right of entry, except by court order, unless the tenant appears to have abandoned the premises,** or as permitted by section 521-70(b).” (*Emphasis added.*)
- HRS Sec. 521-70(b) states: “The landlord may, during any extended absence of the tenant, enter the dwelling unit as reasonably necessary for purposes of inspection, maintenance, and safe-keeping or for the purposes permitted by section 521-53(a).”

I see nothing in the chapter about allowing police to inspect a tenant's home or about requiring police to look for violations of a lease agreement without a warrant.

It is absolutely NOT RIGHT to allow this. Tenants have a right to privacy, and that right cannot be overridden or given away by another person. If there is a question about illegal activity on any property, police should obtain a warrant.

I urge you to vote “no” on Bill 13.