HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 48 (2025)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN MALLS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to address pedestrian malls in the downtown Honolulu area.

SECTION 2. Section 13-10.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Definitions"), as amended by Ordinance 25-8, is amended as follows:

1. By adding a new definition of "Chaplain Lane Mall" to read as follows:

"***Chaplain Lane Mall***. The mall established pursuant to § 15-25.1(d)."

2. By amending the definition of "Downtown Malls" to read as follows:

"***Downtown Malls.*** Means collectively the College Walk Mall, Fort Street Mall, Kauluwela Mall, Kekaulike Mall, Kila Kalikimaka Mall, Sun Yat Sen Mall, [~~and~~] Union Mall[~~.~~], and Chaplain Lane Mall."

SECTION 3. Section 15-25.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 15-25.1 Establishment of pedestrian malls.

(a) *Union Mall.* That portion of Union Street extending from Bishop to Hotel Streets in downtown Honolulu is closed to vehicular traffic and is established as a pedestrian mall.

(1) *Vehicular restrictions.* Except as [~~hereinafter provided, it is unlawful for any~~] provided in this subsection, a person [~~to~~] may not park, [~~or~~] cause to be parked, [~~or to~~] operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle (as defined in this traffic code) upon the mall [~~hereinabove~~] established[~~:~~] in this subsection:

(A) Any person legally entitled as owner, lessee, invitee, or licensee to operate or propel a vehicle in the alley situated on the mauka end of the mall within the easement between the lots [~~bearing the~~] identified as tax map [~~designation 2-1-10-15~~] keys 2-1-010:015 and

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[~~2-1-10-42 shall be permitted to~~] 2-1-010:042, may operate or propel such vehicle, for purposes of ingress and egress, over the portion of the mauka end of the mall between the alley and Bishop Street, the width of which [~~shall be~~] are parallel lines connecting the alley to Bishop Street; provided that entry and exit to and from the alley [~~shall~~] must be from and to Bishop Street only;

(B) [~~It is lawful to~~] A person may operate or propel a vehicle, for purposes of ingress and egress, over the portion of the mauka end of the mall between the lot [~~bearing the~~] identified as tax map [~~designation 2-1-10-15~~] key 2-1-010:015 and Bishop Street. The director of transportation services shall designate the width of the passageway. In determining the width of the passageway, the director of transportation services shall take into consideration pedestrian safety and adequate ingress and egress for the highrise office/retail complex using the lot [~~2-1-10-15.~~] identified as tax map key 2-1-010:015. Entry and exit to and from the lot [~~bearing the~~] identified as tax map [~~designation 2-1-10-15 shall~~] key 2-1-010:015 must be from and to Bishop Street only; and

(C) The speed limit upon the mall [~~shall not exceed~~] is 5 miles per hour.

(b) *Fort Street Mall.* That portion of Fort Street extending from the makai side of Beretania Street to the mauka side of Queen Street is closed to vehicular traffic and is established as a pedestrian mall.

(1) *Vehicular restrictions.* Except as [~~hereinafter~~] provided[~~, it is unlawful for any~~] in this subsection, a person [~~to~~] may not park, [~~or~~] cause to be parked, [~~or to~~] operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle (as defined in the traffic code) upon the mall [~~hereinabove~~] established[~~,~~] in this subsection; provided that vehicular traffic on Hotel, King, and Merchant Streets crossing the intersections at Hotel and Fort[~~,~~] Streets, King and Fort[~~,~~] Streets, and Merchant and Fort[~~,~~] Streets, respectively, [~~shall be exempted~~] are exempt from this [~~section.~~] subdivision.

(2) Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in subdivision (1), vehicles may be allowed on the mall as [~~specified herein.~~] as prescribed in this subdivision.

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(A) [~~Passenger vehicles~~] A person may [~~be operated~~] operate a passenger vehicle on the mall between Beretania and Pauahi Streets at [~~all times~~] any time for the purpose of loading and unloading passengers [~~for Blaisdell Hotel and the Catholic church;~~] from any building on the lots identified as tax map keys 2-1-003:008 and 2-1-010:014 and in addition thereto, vehicles may, under police control, [~~park~~] be parked in the area designated for parking during weddings or funeral services, and other special events held at the [~~Catholic church.~~] the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-010:014.

(B) [~~Passenger vehicles~~] A person may [~~be operated~~] operate a passenger vehicle on the mall between Merchant Street and the [~~C. Brewer~~] driveway on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003 for the purpose of exiting from the [~~C. Brewer~~] parking lot[~~.~~] on the on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003.

(C) [~~Passenger vehicles~~] A person operating a passenger vehicle and loading or unloading passengers [~~at Blaisdell Hotel and the Catholic church shall~~] from any building on the lots identified as tax map keys 2-1-003:008 and 2-1-010:014 may load or unload passengers only within the area designated for such purposes for the respective establishments.

(D) Any person operating a vehicle used by, or serving business firms between any one or more of the following: Bethel Street and Fort Street via Chaplain Lane Mall or the two service alleys situated between Bethel Street and Fort Street may at any time, enter the mall from Chaplain Lane[~~,~~] Mall, and [~~shall~~] exit on Pauahi Street; and further, any vehicle [~~used by or~~] serving [~~C. Brewer & Co.~~] any building on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003 may at any time, enter the mall through the existing [~~C. Brewer~~] driveway[~~.~~] on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003.

(E) [~~It is lawful~~] A person may, during the period from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. of the following day, and all day on Sundays, [~~to~~] operate or propel a vehicle upon the mall for the purpose of delivering property to or receiving the same from a store, shop, office, or other establishment in or upon any premises abutting the mall or for the purpose of cleaning or maintaining the mall, except for that portion of the mall between Merchant Street and Queen

Street, where [~~it is lawful to~~] a person may operate or propel a vehicle at any time only for purposes of cleaning or maintaining the mall, providing emergency services, or exiting and entering the [~~C. Brewer~~] driveway[~~,~~] on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003. A vehicle for cleaning or maintaining the mall may be lawfully operated on the mall pursuant to this paragraph only if it is an "authorized maintenance vehicle."

(F) Vehicular traffic allowed under this subsection [~~shall~~] must travel only upon the area delineated for travel and [~~shall move~~] only in the makai direction, except upon portions between King Street and Merchant Street, where traffic [~~may move~~] is permitted in either direction and between Merchant Street and the [~~C. Brewer~~] driveway[~~,~~] on the lot identified as tax map key 2-1-013:003, where traffic [~~shall~~] must move only in the mauka direction; and except further that the direction of bicycle travel [~~shall be~~] is subject to paragraph (H). [~~No vehicle shall~~] A person may not park a vehicle at any time for any purpose upon the area clearly delineated for travel.

(G) [~~Passenger vehicles~~] A person operating a passenger vehicle and loading or unloading passengers [~~at Blaisdell Hotel and the Catholic church~~] from any building on the lots identified as tax map keys 2-1-003:008 and 2-1-010:014 may park for such purpose for a period not [~~exceeding~~] to exceed three minutes; [~~and~~] provided that vehicles loading or unloading freight under [~~subsection (b)(2)(E)~~] paragraph (E) may park for a period not [~~exceeding~~] to exceed 30 minutes.

(H) Bicycles [~~shall be~~] are permitted on the [~~mall,~~] mall; provided that unless otherwise provided under this paragraph:

(i) [~~The operators~~] Operators of [~~such~~] bicycles [~~shall~~] must be dismounted, but may travel in any direction of the mall; and

(ii) [~~The bicycles shall~~] Bicycles may only be parked [~~only~~] in bicycle racks that the city [~~shall provide~~] provides on the mall for that purpose.

Information and safety officers of the Fort Street Mall business improvement district association or its contractor may ride bicycles upon the mall while in the performance of their duties.

This paragraph [~~shall control~~] controls over any conflicting provision that may arise should the Fort Street Mall be designated as any type of bikeway.

(I) Pedestrians [~~shall at all times~~] have the right-of-way upon the mall[~~.~~] at all times.

(J) The speed limit upon the mall [~~shall~~] must not exceed 5 miles per hour.

(K) Mopeds [~~shall be~~] are permitted on the [~~mall,~~] mall; provided that:

(i) [~~The moped is~~] Mopeds may not be operated on the mall but escorted by the dismounted moped operator, and may be escorted in any direction on the mall; and

(ii) [~~The moped shall~~] Mopeds may only be parked in bicycle racks designated for moped parking by signage of the city.

(c) *College Walk Mall and River Street Mall.* That portion of College Walk extending from the mauka side of Beretania Street to the makai side of Vineyard Boulevard, and that portion of River Street extending from the mauka side of Beretania Street to the makai side of Kukui Street are closed to vehicular traffic and are established as pedestrian malls.

(1) *Right-of-way.* Pedestrians [~~shall at all times~~] have the right-of-way upon the malls[~~.~~] at all times.

(2) [~~*Parking*~~] *Vehicular restrictions.* Except as [~~hereinafter~~] provided[~~, it is unlawful for any~~] in this subsection, a person [~~to~~] may not park, [~~or~~] cause to be parked, [~~or to~~] operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle (as defined in the traffic code) upon the malls [~~hereinabove~~] established[~~;~~] in this subsection; provided that vehicular traffic on Kukui Street crossing the intersection of Kukui Street and College Walk [~~shall be exempted~~] are exempt from this [~~section.~~] subdivision.

(3) *Maintenance thereof.* Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in [~~subsection (c)(2),~~] subdivision (2), vehicles may be allowed on the malls as [~~specified herein.~~] prescribed in this subdivision.

(A) [~~It is lawful to~~] A person may park, operate, or propel a vehicle upon the malls for the purpose of cleaning or otherwise maintaining the malls.

(B) Vehicular traffic allowed under this [~~section shall~~] subsection must travel only upon the area delineated for travel. [~~No vehicle shall~~] A person may not park a vehicle at any time for any purpose upon the area clearly delineated for travel, except for the purpose of cleaning or otherwise maintaining the malls.

(4) *Vehicular speed limit.* [~~No~~] A person [~~shall~~] may not operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle at any time upon the malls at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour.

(5) *Exempt vehicles.* The prohibition against parking or operating a vehicle upon the malls [~~shall~~] in subdivision (2) does not apply to the driver of any authorized emergency vehicle (as defined in the traffic code) responding to an emergency occurring on the mall area; provided that [~~such~~] this exemption [~~shall~~] does not relieve the driver of operating the vehicle with due regard for the safety of others.

(d) *Chaplain Lane Mall.* That portion of Chaplain Lane between Fort Street Mall and Bethel Street is closed to vehicular traffic and is established as a pedestrian mall.

(1) *Right-of-way.* Pedestrians have the right-of-way upon the mall at all times.

(2) *Vehicular restrictions.* Except as provided in this subsection, a person may not park, cause to be parked, operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle (as defined in the traffic code) upon the mall established by this subsection.

(3) *Exemptions.* Notwithstanding the prohibitions contained in subdivision (2), vehicles are only permitted on the mall as specified in subsection (b)(2)(D) and as set forth in this subdivision. Vehicular traffic allowed under this subdivision must travel only upon the area delineated for travel.

(A) *Maintenance of the mall.* A person may park, operate, or propel a vehicle upon the malls for the purpose of cleaning or otherwise maintaining the mall. A person may not park a vehicle at any time for any purpose upon the area clearly delineated for travel, except for the purpose of cleaning or otherwise maintaining the mall.

(B) *Authorized emergency vehicles.* Authorized emergency vehicles (as defined in the traffic code) responding to an emergency occurring on the mall area are permitted on the mall; provided that this paragraph does not relieve the driver of the authorized emergency vehicle of operating the authorized emergency vehicle with due regard for the safety of others.

(C) *Bicycles.* Bicycles are permitted on the mall; provided that:

(i) Operators of bicycles must be dismounted; and

(ii) Bicycles may only be parked in bicycle racks that the city provides on the mall for that purpose.

This paragraph will control over any conflicting provision that may arise should Chaplain Lane Mall be designated as any type of bikeway.

(4) *Vehicular speed limit.* A person may not operate or propel, or cause to be operated or propelled, any vehicle at any time upon the mall at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour."

SECTION 4. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring.

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SECTION 5. This ordinance takes effect on December 1, 2025.

INTRODUCED BY:

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 23 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____
Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ____.

_____
RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:
Pedestrian Malls; Chaplain Lane; Establishment; Exemptions; Department of Transportation Services ("DTS"); Downtown Malls

Description:
Establishes a portion of Chaplain Lane as a pedestrian mall closed to vehicular traffic with certain exceptions. Authorizes the DTS to control and coordinate the use of the newly established Chaplain Lane pedestrian mall. Takes effect on December 1, 2025.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.