RES26-263
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 480

*PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE)

***PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Nov 18, 2026 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jonathan Huynh	jhweather123@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 15, 2026 @ 02:11 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I support RES26-263.

This resolution points at something real. When someone is living outside, a shopping cart is not a convenience. Everything they own is in it: medication, identification, clothing, documents they need to apply for housing or a job. Taking that cart away without giving them somewhere safe to put their things doesn't solve anything. It just moves suffering around.

I want to be honest about what this resolution is and isn't. It urges action but doesn't require it, funds it, or set deadlines. By itself, nothing changes. What gives it value is political cover: Council putting on record that storage matters. It creates a hook that Councilmembers and advocates can point to during the budget season and say: you already agreed this was needed, now fund it.

Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
James Gauer	jamesjtz@aol.com	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 16, 2026 @ 09:05 PM

Testimony:

Aloha and mahalo for your support of helping families or individuals get back on their feet and unload their physical burdens while pursuing better opportunities. Suggest sharing resolution with The Shelter, a program from First Assembly of God with shelter communities on the Kahaluu and planned community for the Waianae coast.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sergio Alcubilla	sergioalcubilla3@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2026 @ 09:33 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mandy Fernandes	mfernandes@acluhawaii.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
ACLU of Hawaii	Support	Nov 18, 2026 @ 11:09 AM

November 18, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St., Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

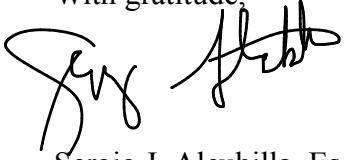
Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Economy,

I write this testimony in support of Resolution 26-263 urging the City Administration to work with community organizations and the state of Hawaii to initiate a pilot program to provide safe and secure storage facilities for individuals experiencing houselessnes. Other cities that have piloted such a program can serve as a model for Honolulu County to alleviate some of the burdens of our houseless community, specifically having no place to store their limited belongings.

This resolution provides some bold initiative to address a glaring need of our houseless community and coupled with efforts to decriminalize houselessnes, can provide some respite and dignity for the most vulnerable in our community. This dignified approach is much more preferred to past efforts such as Bill 53 that sought to punish rather than help.

I urge the Honolulu City Council and the State of Hawaii to explore such options, support this resolution, and continue to take a more humane approach to addressing the issue of houselessnes that is reflective of Hawaii's values.

With gratitude,



Sergio J. Alcubilla, Esq.

ACLU Hawaiʻi

Committee:	Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Hearing Date/Time:	Thursday, November 18, 2026 at 1:00pm
Place:	City Council Chamber
Re:	**Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaiʻi in SUPPORT OF Resolution 26-263, Relating to Safe and Secure Storage Facilities for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**

Dear Chair Tulba, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawaiʻi supports Resolution 26-263, which urges the City to work with community organizations and the State to develop a pilot program to offer safe and secure storage facilities to those experiencing houselessness. This measure offers an effective and humane solution to the issue of stolen and abandoned shopping carts, and proposes a necessary public service that promotes agency, mobility, and dignity for those experiencing houselessness.

Approximately 802 keiki (increase of 43% from 2022) and 698 kūpuna (increase of 45% from 2024-2026) are houseless on Oʻahu.[1] People experiencing homelessness are disproportionately the victims of crime, including elder abuse[2] and theft.[3] Offering a safe and secure place to store belongings will likely allow people who are unhoused to more easily go to work, school, or the doctor without fear of their things being taken.

This resolution is a good step towards enacting proactive solutions that help alleviate the underlying social conditions that lead to homelessness. In the future, we hope the Council will continue this path by prioritizing investments in supportive housing and wrap-around social services for mental health, emotional, or behavioral issues.

For the above reasons, ACLU-HI respectfully requests that you support Resolution 26-263. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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[1] Partners In Care. (2026). *2026 Point in Time Count final report*. Hawaii Health Matters. https://www.hawaiihealthmatters.org/content/sites/hawaii/2026_Point_in_Time_Count_Final_Report.pdf

[2] Office of the District Attorney, County of San Diego. Press Release. (March 1, 2022) *DA Shares First-of-Its Kind Crime Data, Proposes Three-Point Plan to Address Intersection of Crime and Homelessness*. https://www.sdcda.org/content/MediaRelease/Homeless%20Data%20and%20Plan%20News%20Release%20FINAL%203-21-22.pdf

[3] Batko S, Herrera S, Bond L, Girod, K. (2023) *Los Angeles County Women's Needs Assessment*. Urban Institute. https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Los%20Angeles%20County%20Women%E2%80%99s%20Needs%20Assessment.pdf

Mahalo,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai‘i
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With more than 4,000 Hawai‘i-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.

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