

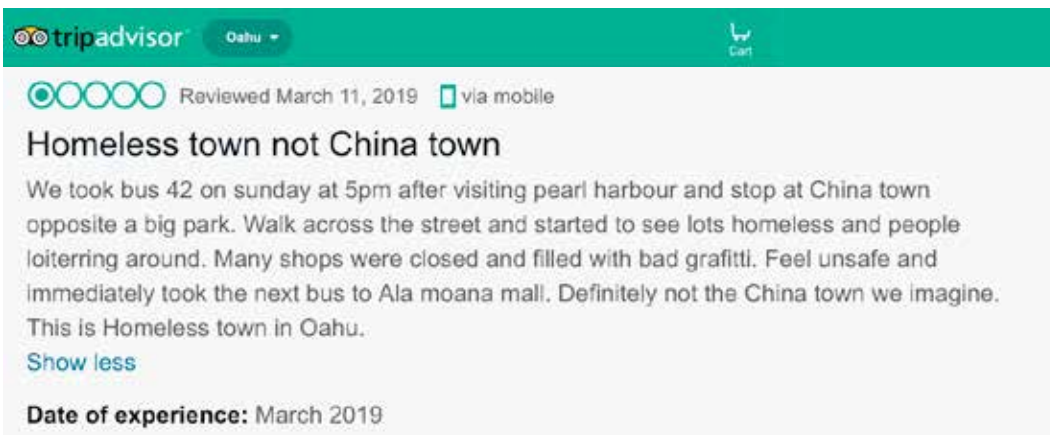
Submitted on behalf of the Pauahi/Maunakea St. neighborhood & Chinatown Watch

SECURITY FUNDING URGENTLY NEEDED

The large, uncontrolled homeless population and opportunistic criminals continue to overwhelm Chinatown neighborhoods with public health and safety threats including:

- urination and defecation in public spaces and on private property
- public drinking, drug use, drug sales
- aggressive panhandling, pedestrians being harassed
- fights, psychotic outbursts, f-bomb barrages, shouting matches
- sitting, lying, camping, littering on public sidewalks and in city parks
- vandalism, theft, purse snatchings & assaults by gangs on kupuna and other vulnerable people

Every day in Chinatown, lawless, aberrant behavior feeds a climate of fear and disgust that debilitates our community economically, socially, physically and mentally. It affects everyone, including visitors:



City-funded security is desperately needed as an emergency measure to keep citizens safe and prevent further degradation of what Mayor Caldwell called “one of Oahu’s greatest gems”.

\$200K FOR SECURITY IN CITY BUDGET, UNDER REVIEW

The City’s Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is now being amended by the City Council. Thanks to Councilmember Fukunaga, the Budget includes \$200K for private security guards to patrol Chinatown’s public spaces. **It is essential that:**

- 1) the City Council RETAIN and even INCREASE this funding** throughout its review process, culminating on June 5 when the full Council votes to approve the Budget.
- 2) the Mayor spends the funding on security** as intended once the Budget is approved.

We encourage all area citizens to keep sending incident reports to Councilmember Fukunaga, to prove to the Council and the Mayor that security funding is not a luxury but an urgent necessity.

LIQUOR STORE LICENSE REVIEW

Our neighborhood welcomes the City’s scrutiny of Maunakea Liquors at 1161 Maunakea Street. It is quite baffling that the City continues to renew Maunakea Liquors’ license year after year despite volumes of complaints by neighboring residents, businesses and property owners piling up in the offices of our elected officials. We sincerely hope that this time the City will give serious attention to the community’s long record of red flags about Maunakea Liquors’ activities. We also hope this renewed oversight will also extend to the other disruptive liquor stores in our district.

(continued next pages)



Sit-lie violations & sidewalk obstruction across from Police station



Deranged person writhing on Hotel Street sidewalk at midday



Drinking at Hotel & Kekaulike



Campers in & around Sun Yat Sen park



Man drinking alcohol on sidewalk next to Maunakea Liquors for 3rd day, after ambulance ride to hospital



Man with known mental issues shouting and drinking beer next to Maunakea Liquors



Purse snatching in stolen car on Pauahi Street



Woman urinating at store entrance



Feces on sidewalk next to restaurant



Woman urinating in residential lobby



Broken windows at FHB and The Nature Conservancy



Shopping cart & owner at River of Life



Trash bags torn open on Bethel Street

MORE VISITOR REVIEWS FROM TRIP ADVISOR

 Reviewed February 25, 2019  via mobile

Sad...

Been to a lot of Chinatowns and unfortunately this is not a good one. Boarded up. Empty spaces. Tired. Dirty. Street people. Disappointing.

Date of experience: February 2019

 Reviewed October 24, 2018

Disturbing!

We were very excited to take this cultural glimpse and had planned to spend the day here while looking forward to some fresh cuisine. It wasn't long before we ran into someone begging for money. . .people passed out or under the influence on the sidewalk. . .the filthy conditions of the streets and the shops left me nauseous and unable to consider even tasting anything. . . The smells were a pungent mixture. . .we stopped in two particularly clean shops where we were treated well, otherwise it felt we were intruders with harsh looks or dismissive behavior. . .i advised my husband that I didn't feel safe here, couldn't eat here so we headed for the car. . .saw a drug situation in broad daylight at the entry to the parking lot. . .we simply averted our eyes and got out of there. Not a place for young children . . .none of the locals had children anywhere in the vicinity which is telling. . .eye opening for sure and not a place we will visit ever again.

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Date of experience: October 2018

 Reviewed July 19, 2018

Hawaiian Crime Zone

On my flight from California I watched the ads enthusiastically promoting the food & culture of Honolulu's Chinatown. After parking in a garage then attempting to exit the stairwell I encountered a local junkie shooting up in the dark exit & immediately spun my college age daughter around so she didn't fully witness the ugly scene. The streets were vacant except for the unfortunate homeless who abounded in great numbers. I realized I was in a dangerous neighborhood and if I found a restaurant certainly didn't want to be walking back to my car after dark with a pocket full of cash and a young lady - without a weapon. We left Chinatown while the getting was good. Sue the promo company on Hawaii Air for false advertising

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Date of experience: July 2018

 Reviewed July 14, 2018  via mobile

Not nice

Really don't know why this is considered a tourist attraction. We got off the bus and were very quickly looking for the bus stop to take us away again. In the 10 minutes we spent there we saw two different men on two different streets pissing freely all over the footpath. The place stunk and homeless were everywhere. If you want to see the poorer part of Oahu then visit, otherwise stay away.

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Date of experience: July 2018

Update from Arlene Ilae, Director of the Pauahi Senior Recreation Center. The Rec Center hosts **City-run programs for kupuna in their City-owned building** at 71 No. Pauahi Street.

“During our hours, (6am to 11am) nothing has really changed much. Although I will say, it has curbed a bit with the shopping carts, the daily homeless are still housing within the doorways of the bldgs, swearing up and down the streets, while River street appears to have an increase of “permanent” housing, for many.

UPDATE: Last week Friday (6:15 am), we had an incident where one of our employees, while washing down the sidewalk fronting the Center (that is typically used as a human toilet) was aggressively approached by a tall (approx: 6ft), thin, white male, with shoulder length blonde hair. Making contact w/our employee (shoulder to shoulder), he began yelling that “he didn’t want to get wet”. He then walked behind our employee, and false cracked him on his left cheek. Although our employee is doing OK, the attack left him with a loose back tooth, scrapes to his elbow, and loss of balance, where he ended up hitting his head on the Bldg wall. A police report was of course filed..Infact, as of this writing, I just completed a report that will be filed with the City through their Park and Recreations Director.

As with us all...I’m praying that BOTH the City, and State officials of Hawaii will “collectively” take China Town seriously. It’s no secret (that) the community has become a dangerous and “spooky” place to walk, shop, and visit within. Heck, its been on TV, sighted by drivers, and ongoing reported incidents from merchants, residents, to visitors. FACTS which spell out...DANGER!! I personally believe they (City and State) have a moral obligation to do everything possible within their powers to ensure all are safe. And while we do not live in a perfect world, funding addn’l Security patrols, is a small price to pay, in exchange for safety and security for all.”

Ms. Ilae had reported similar conditions 2 months prior, at the March 7 NB#13 meeting.



Mid-afternoon at the Pauahi Senior Recreation Center, the City-owned building where senior citizens attend City-run programs such as exercise classes.

To the City administration:

We continue to beg you to:

- **Begin immediately to fund private security patrols for Chinatown, with special emphasis on the known crime zones surrounding the homeless services and liquor stores.**
- Provide all additional funding needed to support HPD in protecting Chinatown's citizens.
- Close the Pauahi Street hygiene center and relocate Safe Haven out of Chinatown.
- Fast-track your negotiations with River of Life Mission so they may move their feeding operation to Iwilei this year.
- Close the liquor stores that sell alcohol and drugs to the homeless and mentally ill substance abusers who congregate in disproportionately high numbers in Chinatown.

To all Chinatown residents, merchants, shoppers, property owners, workers, visitors, etc:

- 1) **Call 911 to report violations.**
- 2) **Talk to your neighbors about the problems.** Encourage them to call 911, too.
- 3) **Urge the City Council and Mayor Caldwell to fund private security patrols for Downtown-Chinatown's public spaces.** Contact Councilmember Fukunaga's office for details. Email cafukunaga@honolulu.gov or call 768-5006
- 4) **Post incidents anonymously to ChinatownWatch.com.** Please note that posting to ChinatownWatch.com is NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 911.
- 5) **To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email ChinatownWatch@gmail.com**
- 6) **Get some neighbors together to meet with the HPD's Community Policing team.** Call the CPT office at 732-3927. A strong community partnership with HPD is good for everyone.
- 7) **Merchants & property owners, please join the Chinatown Improvement District's neighborhood security patrol.** Call Lee Stack at 589-9927 or email chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com, or via the website: cidchinatownhawaii.org.