

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

## Two Steps Forward

### 1) CITY'S NEW OPERATING BUDGET FUNDS SECURITY FOR CHINATOWN PROPERTIES

The City's budget for FY 2020 includes \$250K for private security guards to patrol City-owned properties in Chinatown. Mahalo Nui to **Councilmember Fukunaga** for introducing the budget amendment and getting it to the finish line.

So the funding is available effective July 1. As \$250K is a modest sum for an area this size, it is essential that the City plan ahead how to spend the money wisely. We urge the City to **coordinate with HPD and with existing private security patrols**, such as the one organized by Chinatown Improvement District, to support and amplify each other's efforts.

For public safety, it is crucial that the guards patrol **outdoors in the public spaces (sidewalks, streets, parks, etc.) AROUND the city-owned buildings** - not just inside or within the footprint of the buildings.

### 2) COMMUNITY OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSES MAUNAKEA LIQUORS' LICENSE RENEWAL

At the May 16 Honolulu Liquor Commission hearing, Chinatown Watch joined the chorus of voices opposing license renewal for Maunakea Liquor & Grocery. Scores of Chinatown merchants, residents, property owners, community groups, our Neighborhood Board, Senator Rhoads, Councilmember Fukunaga, HPD and even Mayor Caldwell himself petitioned for the license revocation, citing this liquor store's long-standing pattern of behaviors harmful to our community.

This was a remarkable show of unity toward a safer, cleaner Chinatown! The process is now playing out at the administrative level. We pray for an outcome that truly supports our community's best interests.

## Problems Persist

While these positive developments give us hope for the future, our present is a daily struggle. Chinatown citizens continue to report and document the problems that inevitably result when service-resistant homeless / mentally ill / addicts and criminals roam about freely among the shopkeepers, residents, visitors and workers in our district. The newly-funded security patrol is urgently needed as an emergency measure on the ground NOW, while we wait for the City and State to craft a coherent response to the public healthy & safety nightmare we face each day.

Following are incidents from the past month:



**Passed out at Maunakea Street business**



**Human waste at First Hawaiian Bank**



**Camp & trash on sidewalk fronting business at Hotel & River**



**Man urinating at Walmart garage**



**Vandal filling merchant's locks with glue**



**Feces on sidewalk**



**Sleeping in front of King St. business**



**Passed out across Bishop Street sidewalk**



**Midday at City building that hosts programs for seniors. Guard next door cannot enforce at City property.**





**Walking down Maunakea Street, shouting and swearing**



**Spaced out , beer in hand, pants off next to River of Life**



**Newly planted trees broken, 2nd time in this location on Fort Street Mall**



**Trash dumped from bags onto Maunakea Street & sidewalk**



**Lying on sidewalk across from Central Middle School**



**Deranged man dances down No. Hotel Street then smashes TheBus window**





**Feces & underwear in Bethel Street building's landscaping**



**Camping on Nuuanu Avenue sidewalk**



**Vagrants leave trash in front of Bethel Street restaurant**



**Pants down, defecating on Maunakea Street**



**Trash strewn about sidewalk on So. Hotel St.**



**Vendor violating Kekaulike Mall ordinance against placing boxes & debris in pedestrian walkway**

**To the City administration:**

We thank you for funding private security for your Chinatown properties and surrounding public spaces. Thank you for taking action on Maunakea Liquors.

We continue to beg you to:

- 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 all 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 ALL of Downtown-Chinatown's public spaces.** Contact Councilmember Fukunaga's office to report incidents in your area. Email [cafukunaga@honolulu.gov](mailto:cafukunaga@honolulu.gov) or call 768-5006

**4) Support HPD deploying police foot patrols 24/7 throughout Downtown-Chinatown**

**5) Post incidents anonymously to ChinatownWatch.com.** Please note that posting to ChinatownWatch.com is NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 911.

**6) To order Chinatown Watch window signs for your business, email [ChinatownWatch@gmail.com](mailto:ChinatownWatch@gmail.com)**

**7) 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.

**8) Merchants & property owners, please join the Chinatown Improvement District's neighborhood security patrol.** Call Lee Stack at 589-9927 or email [chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:chinatownimprovementdistrict@gmail.com), or via the website: [cidchinatownhawaii.org](http://cidchinatownhawaii.org).