

Hundreds turn out to testify on civil unions bill

Hundreds Turned Out to Testify For

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By Marisa Yamane
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Six men were busted during an undercover sting in Downtown Honolulu.

Police say the men were caught trying to hire prostitutes.

The arrests are part of an overall effort to crack down on prostitution an effort, which police and residents say has really paid off.

This is home video shot earlier this year of prostitutes working North Kukui Street in Downtown Honolulu, near Kukui Plaza.

"It has been pretty bad in the past," said Rich Lentes, Kukui Plaza Security Supervisor.

Not anymore.

"I have definitely seen an improvement in the past four to five months as far as the amount of prostitution activity that's going on out here. It's decreased absolutely, absolutely," said Lentes.

Police have been working hard to clean up this area, through numerous undercover stings aimed at busting prostitutes, and more recently the johns.

"We're happy about anything that reduces the activity. Because along with the prostitution comes the drug activity so it's just an element we don't want on our streets surrounding our complex, said Mike Lakey, Kukui Plaza General Manager.

Late Thursday night, police arrested six men on North Kukui Street for trying to hire an undercover officer who was posing as a prostitute.

The men include: 24-year old Jordan Febenito of Kalihi, 38-year old Timothy Greenleaf of Nuuanu, 25-year old Kahiwa McKeague of Palolo, 29-year old Leighton Uchimura of Manoa, 31-year old Ryan Yamasaki of Kaneohe, and 22-year old Ikaika Striker of Kalama Valley.

Kukui Plaza management has also taken measures their own.

"What I have done is asked my security department to step up their patrols along Kukui Street and report any activity to police," said Lakey.

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Honolulu
70 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Wind : Variable at 6 MPH
Humidity : 68 %

Hilo 64 °F
Kona 73 °F
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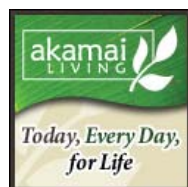
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THU	77	67
FRI	78	67
SAT	79	67
SUN	79	68
KHON	79	68

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High Tide: 4:46 p.m. 1.3 ft
Low Tide: 10:53 a.m. 0.0 ft

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Lakey says they recently installed large lights around the complex to deter prostitution, and they have plans to install a security camera.

"Probably the last month and a half or so it's pretty much gone to where we hardly see anything. It's been great. And it's been a relief and our residents are extremely happy about it," said Lakey.

Currently prostitution is a misdemeanor.

The management of Kukui Plaza has been leading the fight for a new three strikes law, that would make a third prostitution conviction a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison.

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New Vision Television 88 Piikoi Street, Honolulu, HI 96814

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