

Hundreds turn out to testify on civil unions bill

Hundreds Turned Out to Testify For

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UNDERCOVER PROSTITUTION STING LEADS TO FOUR ARRESTS



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By Marisa Yamane

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An area in Chinatown well-known for prostitutes was the scene of an undercover sting today.

Four men were arrested.

Rather than targeting the prostitutes or pimps, police today targeted the customers, otherwise known as "johns."

The cellblock at HPD Headquarters was busy during lunchtime, as police booked four men for street solicitation.

They include 45-year old Thomas Laurel.

33-year old Aaron Kelii of Hawaii Kai.

30-year old Darrien Parker of the University area.

And 31-year old Hector Herrera of Kapolei, whom police say was driving a tow truck.

All were busted during an undercover sting operation to crack down on prostitution in Chinatown.

"We do a two fold operation, we can use female undercover officers or do reverse buys with male officers riding plain clothes cars. So we do both," said Honolulu Police Lt. Fabian Loo.

In this latest sting, several female officers posed as prostitutes near the corner of North Kukui and Aala for a couple hours during lunchtime.

And they waited for customers to proposition them.

"You actually have to have some kind of cost with a service included so there has to be a price with a service," said Loo.

Police say they try to do these types of stings frequently as part of the Weed and Seed program -- to clean up the area.

"I think one of the main excuses or most common ones is look how they're dressed what do you expect from us, standing on the corner and they

WEATHER

Honolulu
70 °F

Mostly Cloudy

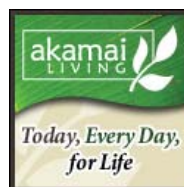
Wind : Variable at 6 MPH
Humidity : 68 %

Hilo 64 °F
Kona 73 °F
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forget they're the ones who stopped propositioned for money," said Loo.

Street solicitation carries a penalty of up to a year in jail and up to \$1000 in fines.

"Sometimes prostitution and gambling they think it's the norm of society and we want the people to know especially the people in that area that the HPD cares about them and we don't condone that type of behavior," said Loo.

The four men arrested for street solicitation today were all charged, with bail set at \$1000.

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