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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CHECK VEHICLE STATUS  
PRIOR TO TOWING TO ENSURE TOWING FEES ON STOLEN VEHICLES  
WILL NOT BE PASSED ON TO THE VICTIMS.

1           WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform  
2 Crime Reporting program reported that in 2004 there were 7,369  
3 cases of motor vehicle theft in Honolulu; and  
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5           WHEREAS, for every car stolen there are multiple victims,  
6 including the car's owner, family members, and all who depend on  
7 the vehicle for transportation to work, school, medical  
8 appointments, or for business; and  
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10          WHEREAS, during fiscal year 2003-2004, over 30,000 vehicles  
11 were investigated as being abandoned or derelict and, in that  
12 same time period, 7,930 of those vehicles were towed to a  
13 storage facility to either be claimed by the owner or sold at  
14 public auction if unclaimed after three months; and  
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16          WHEREAS, an owner of a stolen vehicle, which had been towed  
17 to a storage facility is responsible for paying the towing fees,  
18 which can be close to \$200 to recover the property that was  
19 illegally taken from the owner; and  
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21          WHEREAS, requiring a victim of theft to pay for the return  
22 of the victim's own property is simply "rubbing salt into their  
23 wound"; and  
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25          WHEREAS, running a check on a vehicle's identification  
26 number when the vehicle is being inspected as derelict,  
27 abandoned, or illegally parked would be an efficient way to  
28 discover if the vehicle had been stolen and allow the victim of  
29 that theft to claim the victim's vehicle prior to having it  
30 towed; now, therefore,  
31



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 3 of 2006, that this body hereby requests and urges the Honolulu  
 4 Police Department to check the vehicle's status prior to towing  
 5 to ensure that the towing fee of the stolen vehicle will not be  
 6 passed on to the victim; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of  
 10 Honolulu and Honolulu Police Department.  
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 12  
 13

OFFERED BY: *Phillip L.*

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