
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHERIFFS TO CHECK VEHICLE STATUS PRIOR TO TOWING TO ENSURE TOWING FEES OF 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 victims of theft to pay for the return
22 of the victims' 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,



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 the Legislature hereby requests and urges the
4 Honolulu Police Department and Department of Public Safety
5 Sheriffs to check the vehicle's status prior to towing to ensure
6 that the towing fee of the stolen vehicle will not be passed on
7 to the victim; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety,
11 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and Chief of the
12 Honolulu Police Department.

