
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO ASSESS THEIR CURRENT LICENSE AND
PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TRANSIENT VACATION RENTALS.

1 WHEREAS, in 1989, the City and County of Honolulu (Honolulu
2 C&C) established a moratorium on new permits for transient
3 vacation rentals (TVR), such as bed and breakfasts; and
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5 WHEREAS, although the moratorium went into effect, it did
6 not eliminate the demand for TVRs, which generally allow for a
7 more neighborhood-based, intimate, and personal visitor
8 experience; and
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10 WHEREAS, in addition to the demand for TVRs, the Honolulu
11 C&C has not aggressively enforced the moratorium; and
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13 WHEREAS, the lack of enforcement coupled with the
14 persistent visitor demand for TVRs has resulted in a situation
15 where over 1,000 TVRs are estimated to be in operation outside
16 of Waikiki, including both permitted and non-permitted TVRs; and
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18 WHEREAS, due to strong concerns voiced by many residents
19 regarding the negative impacts of non-permitted TVRs, Honolulu
20 C&C has been pressured to strengthen its enforcement of the
21 moratorium; and
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23 WHEREAS, Honolulu C&C has chosen an enforcement method that
24 depends on residents to report on their neighbors concerning
25 suspicious TVR activity to be effective; and
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27 WHEREAS, this enforcement policy has resulted in divided
28 neighborhoods and rising tension and animosity between neighbors
29 who support tough enforcement of TVR ordinances and regulations,
30 and those who do not; and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to the rising animosity between the
2 two sides of the debate, there also exists a concern that the
3 State and Honolulu C&C may be operating under conflicting
4 priorities; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State may prioritize the increase in revenue
7 and economic activity that alternative tourism venues provide,
8 while Honolulu C&C may be primarily focused on shutting down
9 TVRs opened since the moratorium; and
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11 WHEREAS, the result of this potential conflict may mean
12 that the critical issue of how to best address non-permitted
13 TVRs will not be resolved; and
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15 WHEREAS, the issues raised by non-permitted TVRs are
16 already complex and evoke passionate responses from the
17 stakeholders involved; and
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19 WHEREAS, it is imperative that a rational, measured,
20 thoughtful, and reasoned analysis and discussion regarding non-
21 permitted TVRs take place; and
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23 WHEREAS, this issue, though focused on Honolulu C&C, is not
24 limited in scope to one county, and affects communities in every
25 county of the State; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2007, that the counties are requested to assess their
30 current license and permit application process for TVRs; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Honolulu C&C is requested to
33 also reassess its 1989 moratorium on TVR permits; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties, in their
36 respective assessments, explore ways to provide opportunities
37 for individuals and businesses to obtain the necessary permits
38 and licenses to operate TVRs legally; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties encourage
41 stakeholders on both sides of the issue to work together with
42 county-related entities such as the Hawaii State Association of
43 Counties to develop ways to address this issue that are
44 acceptable to all parties involved; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors of Honolulu C&C and the
4 Counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

John C. ...

By Request

MAR 14 2007

