

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ENCOURAGE STAKEHOLDERS
ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TRANSIENT VACATION RENTAL ISSUE TO
WORK TOGETHER WITH COUNTY RELATED ENTITIES SUCH AS THE
HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TO DEVELOP WAYS TO
ADDRESS THIS ISSUES THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES
INVOLVED.

1 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu has had a
2 moratorium on vacation rentals and bed and breakfasts (TVRs) in
3 effect since 1989; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1989 there were 214 permits issued before the
6 moratorium took effect; and
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8 WHEREAS, to meet a demand for the more intimate experience
9 visitors wanted in neighborhood based accommodations Transient
10 Vacation Rentals opened without permits; and
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12 WHEREAS, the county did not enforce their moratorium for
13 most of the years it has been in effect; and
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15 WHEREAS, the result is 1117 permitted and unapproved
16 Transient Vacation Rentals located within the jurisdiction of
17 the City and County of Honolulu, but outside of Waikiki; and
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19 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu, under pressure
20 from citizens concerned about the quality of life in their
21 neighborhoods asked that the county begin enforcing the
22 moratorium on Transient Vacation Rentals; and
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24 WHEREAS, many of these Transient Vacation Rentals are owned
25 by local families who either live on site or near their
26 Transient Vacation Rental; and
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28 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu has chosen an
29 enforcement policy requiring neighbors to report on neighbors in
30 order to be effective; and
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1 WHEREAS, the result of this enforcement has led to divided
2 neighborhoods and high emotions on both sides of the issue,
3 making listening and rational dialogue increasingly difficult;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, the State does not know the cost of tax revenue
7 loss, and the loss of both direct and indirect economic activity
8 that the closure of those unapproved Transient Vacation Rentals
9 opened since 1989 will cause; and
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11 WHEREAS, the State and County may be working at cross
12 purposes with the State working to increase tax revenue,
13 economic activity, and provide more tourism alternatives and the
14 County intent on closing Transient Vacation Rentals since 1989;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, the result working at cross purposes will result
18 in loss of tax revenue, economic activity and a tourism
19 alternative to the State; and
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21 WHEREAS, there are quality of life issues that need to be
22 addressed in rational discussion; and
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24 WHEREAS, the issue is a sensitive matter that evokes
25 passionate responses from both sides of the issue; now,
26 therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
30 recommend to the counties that the counties assess their current
31 licensing application process for Transient Vacation Rentals
32 including reassessment of the City and County of Honolulu's 1989
33 moratorium on TVRs; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in their assessment they look at
36 ways to provide opportunities for individuals and businesses to
37 obtain a permit to operate; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
40 to encourage stakeholders on both sides of the issue to work
41 together with county related entities such as the Hawaii State
42 Association of Counties to develop ways to address this issues
43 that is acceptable to all parties involved; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the City and County of Honolulu,
3 Hawaii State Association of Counties,
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OFFERED BY: 

