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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER  
AGENCIES, TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING ISSUES RELATED TO HOMELESS  
LIVING IN ABANDONED VEHICLES.

1           WHEREAS, residents and businesses have complained about  
2 homeless individuals living in abandoned vehicles in  
3 neighborhoods throughout the City and County of Honolulu (C&C of  
4 Honolulu); and

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6           WHEREAS, some of these individuals reportedly have dogs and  
7 cats living with them in these vehicles; and

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9           WHEREAS, homeless living in abandoned vehicles presents a  
10 health and safety hazard to surrounding residents and  
11 businesses, particularly when there is broken glass, vehicle  
12 parts, and food scraps littering the area; and

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14           WHEREAS, there has also been an ongoing problem with  
15 abandoned vehicles on Queen Street in Honolulu, in particular,  
16 an area near 945 Queen Street, and some of these abandoned  
17 vehicles are occupied by homeless individuals; and

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19           WHEREAS, it is unclear whether the C&C of Honolulu, State,  
20 Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), or a private  
21 entity, has jurisdiction over the area near 945 Queen Street;  
22 and

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24           WHEREAS, HCDA reportedly was to take over control over a  
25 portion of the land in question, which reportedly was previously  
26 owned by a private individual; and

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1 WHEREAS, state law and county ordinance is also unclear  
2 whether a vehicle is considered "abandoned" when occupied by  
3 homeless individuals; and  
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5 WHEREAS, Chapter 290, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),  
6 identifies an abandoned vehicle, if not defined by county  
7 ordinance, as one "left unattended for a continuous period of  
8 more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any  
9 public highway or other public property or private lands defined  
10 as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is  
11 adjacent to or part of a public highway"; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the combined issues of jurisdiction and  
14 classification of an "abandoned vehicle" make it unclear as to  
15 how homeless individuals living in vehicles should be dealt with  
16 to keep communities healthy and safe; now, therefore,  
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
19 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
20 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the C&C of Honolulu  
21 Department of Transportation Services, in collaboration with the  
22 C&C of Honolulu Department of Customer Services, state  
23 Department of Transportation, and Hawaii Public Housing  
24 Authority, is requested to determine:  
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26 (1) Who has jurisdiction over the land near 945 Queen  
27 Street; and  
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29 (2) Methods to regulate or prohibit homeless living in  
30 abandoned vehicles throughout the C&C of Honolulu,  
31 including the possibility of clarifying laws  
32 pertaining to "abandoned vehicles" under Chapter 290,  
33 HRS, and expanding the definition of "abandoned  
34 vehicle" to include parked vehicles with the  
35 appearance of an individual using the vehicle as a  
36 residence;  
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38 and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C of Honolulu Department  
41 of Transportation Services is requested to submit a report to  
42 the Legislature on its findings and recommendations, including  
43 any suggested legislation, no later than 20 days prior to the  
44 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
3 Transportation Services, Chief of the Honolulu Police  
4 Department, Director of Customer Services, Director of  
5 Transportation, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Public  
6 Housing Authority.

