
HOUSE 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; and

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

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7 WHEREAS, this presents a health and safety hazard to
8 surrounding residents and businesses, particularly when there is
9 broken glass, vehicle parts, and food scraps littering the area;
10 and

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

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

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

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26 WHEREAS, in addition to the jurisdictional issue, it is
27 also unclear whether a vehicle is considered "abandoned" when
28 occupied by homeless individuals; and

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30 WHEREAS, Chapter 290, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
31 identifies an abandoned vehicle, if not defined by county
32 ordinance, as one "left unattended for a continuous period of



1 more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any
2 public highway or other public property or private lands defined
3 as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is
4 adjacent to or part of a public highway"; and
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6 WHEREAS, the combined issues of jurisdiction and
7 classification of an "abandoned vehicle" make it unclear as to
8 how homeless individuals living in vehicles should be dealt with
9 to keep communities healthy and safe; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
13 of 2009, that the C&C of Honolulu Department of Transportation
14 Services, in collaboration with the C&C of Honolulu Department
15 of Customer Services, state Department of Transportation, and
16 Hawaii Public Housing Authority, is requested to determine:
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18 (1) Who has jurisdiction over the land near 945 Queen
19 Street; and
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21 (2) Methods to regulate or prohibit homeless living in
22 abandoned vehicles, including the possibility of
23 clarifying laws pertaining to "abandoned vehicles"
24 under Chapter 290, HRS;
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26 and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that C&C of Honolulu Department of
29 Transportation Services is requested to submit a report to the
30 Legislature on its findings and recommendations, including any
31 suggested legislation, no later than 20 days prior to the
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation
36 Services, Director of Customer Services, Director of
37 Transportation, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Public
38 Housing Authority.
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40 *Jyla B. Berg*
41 *AC Kuhage* *John M. ...*
OFFERED BY: Tom Brown

[Signatures: David, Manj, Kaela, Denny, Shirley, etc.]
HR HMS 2009-1174


Mele Carroll
Jim Ober

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