
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 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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28 WHEREAS, state law and county ordinance is also unclear
29 whether a vehicle is considered "abandoned" when occupied by
30 homeless individuals; and
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1 WHEREAS, Chapter 290, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
 2 identifies an abandoned vehicle, if not defined by county
 3 ordinance, as one "left unattended for a continuous period of
 4 more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any
 5 public highway or other public property or private lands defined
 6 as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is
 7 adjacent to or part of a public highway"; and

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 9 WHEREAS, the combined issues of jurisdiction and
 10 classification of an "abandoned vehicle" make it unclear as to
 11 how homeless individuals living in vehicles should be dealt with
 12 to keep communities healthy and safe; now, therefore,

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 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 16 of 2009, that the C&C of Honolulu Department of Transportation
 17 Services, in collaboration with the C&C of Honolulu Department
 18 of Customer Services, state Department of Transportation, and
 19 Hawaii Public Housing Authority, is requested to determine:

- 20
 21 (1) Who has jurisdiction over the land near 945 Queen
 22 Street; and
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 24 (2) Methods to regulate or prohibit homeless living in
 25 abandoned vehicles throughout the C&C of Honolulu,
 26 including the possibility of clarifying laws
 27 pertaining to "abandoned vehicles" under Chapter 290,
 28 HRS, and expanding the definition of "abandoned
 29 vehicle" to include parked vehicles with the
 30 appearance of an individual using the vehicle as a
 31 residence;

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 33 and

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 35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the C&C of Honolulu Department
 36 of Transportation Services is requested to submit a report to
 37 the Legislature on its findings and recommendations, including
 38 any suggested legislation, no later than 20 days prior to the
 39 convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation
3 Services, Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, Director of
4 Customer Services, Director of Transportation, and Executive
5 Director of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

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