HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

KAKAAKO
KALAELOA

Linda Lingle
Governor

Jonathan W. Y. Lai
Chairperson

Anthony J. H. Ching
Executive Director

677 Ala Moana Boulevard
Suite 1001
Honolulu, Hawaii
96813

Telephone
(808) 587-2870

Facsimile
(808) 587-8150

E-Mail
contact@hcdaweb.org

Web site
www.hcdaweb.org

STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Monday, April 6, 2009

10:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

H. C. R. 294, H. D 1/
H. R. 266, H. D. 1 - 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.

Purpose: 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.

Position: The Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA") **offers comments.**

The HCDA acknowledges that the plight of the homeless in the State is a serious societal issue. In Kakaako and Kalaeloa alone, there are a total of five shelters being operated. The problem of homeless persons living in vehicles parked on right-of-ways is a complex issue.

The problem is exacerbated when homeless persons are living in vehicles parked on <u>privately owned</u> right-of-ways, like parts of Queen Street near Cummins Street. In this situation, the Honolulu Police Department, we understand, may not have the jurisdiction to enforce the applicable laws.

This situation does not, unfortunately, lend itself to a quick solution. A longer term solution for these privately owned streets might be to make these privately owned streets state- or county-owned streets either by acquisition or dedication thereby addressing the jurisdiction issue and enabling the appropriate law enforcement agency to enforce applicable laws with respect to the abandoned vehicles.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.