
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VESSELS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 200-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~[†]~~§200-41~~[†]~~ **Disposition** ~~[by chairperson]~~ of certain
4 **abandoned vessels.** (a) Any vessel ~~[which:~~

5 ~~(1) Has been left unattended for a continuous period of~~
6 ~~more than thirty days; and~~

7 ~~(2) Is within the waters of the State or on public~~
8 ~~property, or is on private property without~~

9 ~~authorization of the owner or occupant of the~~
10 ~~property,~~

11 ~~may be caused by the chairperson to be taken into custody and~~

12 ~~disposed of pursuant to this part.]~~ may be deemed abandoned if

13 the vessel has been moored or otherwise left in the waters of

14 the State or on public property contrary to law or rules having

15 the force and effect of law, or left on private property without

16 authorization of the owner or occupant of the property if:

17 (1) The vessel's registration certificate or marine

18 document has expired and the registered owner no



1 longer resides at the address listed in the vessel
2 registration or marine document records of the
3 department or the United States Coast Guard;

4 (2) The last registered owner of record disclaims
5 ownership and the current owner's name or address
6 cannot be determined;

7 (3) The vessel identification numbers and other means of
8 identification have been removed so as to hinder or
9 nullify efforts to locate or identify the owner;

10 (4) The vessel registration records of the department of
11 land and natural resources and the marine document
12 records of the United States Coast Guard contain no
13 record that the vessel has ever been registered or
14 documented and the owner's name or address cannot be
15 determined; or

16 (5) The requirements of section 200-52 are met.

17 (b) The determination whether a vessel is abandoned may be
18 made by:

19 (1) The chairperson, with regard to public property under
20 the jurisdiction of the department of land and natural
21 resources; or



1 (2) Any other state department or agency through its
2 director, with regard to public property within the
3 department or agency's respective jurisdiction; or
4 (3) Any county through its mayor or the mayor's designee,
5 or chief of police, with regard to public property
6 within the respective county's jurisdiction; provided
7 that the department shall provide to the respective
8 county access to the department's vessel registration
9 and marine document records or those of the United
10 States Coast Guard for the purposes of this section.

11 Once a vessel is deemed abandoned, the appropriate official
12 under this subsection may direct and cause the vessel to be
13 taken into custody and disposed of pursuant to and in the manner
14 provided in this chapter.

15 (c) All vessels abandoned on private property shall be the
16 responsibility of the private property owner."

17 SECTION 2. Section 200-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "**§200-42 Notice to owner.** [~~Upon~~] A state or county
20 agency, upon taking custody of any vessel, [a written notice]
21 shall immediately [be posted] post a written notice on the
22 vessel and send a duplicate original [sent] by registered or



1 certified mail, with a return receipt requested, to [~~the~~] any
2 owner registered with the department or documented by the United
3 States Coast Guard or any lien holder or operator of the vessel
4 on record with the department or the United States Coast Guard
5 at their respective last known address on record with the
6 department or the United States Coast Guard. The notice shall
7 contain a brief description of the vessel, the location of
8 custody, and the intended disposition of the vessel if not
9 repossessed within twenty days after the mailing of the notice.
10 Such owner, lien holder, or operator, of the vessel shall have
11 ten days after receipt of the mailed notice to request in
12 writing an administrative hearing[~~-~~] pursuant to chapter 91 from
13 the state or county agency that took custody of the vessel.
14 This administrative hearing is solely for the purpose of
15 allowing the owner, lien holder, or operator of an impounded
16 vessel to contest the basis given [~~by the department~~] for the
17 impoundment of the vessel. The hearing [~~must~~] shall be held
18 within five working days of the [~~department's~~] state or county
19 agency's receipt of the written request."

20 SECTION 3. Section 200-44, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 **"§200-44 Possession by interested party.** Any person
2 having an interest in the vessel taken into custody may take
3 possession of the vessel prior to the date of public auction
4 upon payment to the [~~department~~] state or county agency that
5 took custody of the vessel of all use fees, towing, handling and
6 storage charges, appraisal and advertising expenses, and any
7 other expenses incurred by [~~the department~~] that state or county
8 agency in connection with the vessel. If the person taking
9 possession of the vessel is not the registered or documented
10 owner, the person, prior to taking possession of the vessel,
11 shall pay the foregoing expenses and post security satisfactory
12 to the [~~department~~] state or county agency, which shall not
13 exceed the value of the vessel. The security, if not forfeited,
14 shall be returned to the person posting it within two years
15 after receipt."

16 SECTION 4. Section 200-45, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 **"§200-45 When public auction not required.** Public auction
19 shall not be required when the appraised value of any vessel is
20 less than \$5,000, as determined by an independent appraiser who
21 has at least one year of experience in the sale or purchase of
22 vessels. Upon that determination, after public notice of



1 intended disposition has been given at least once, the
2 [~~department~~] state or county agency that took custody of the
3 vessel may sell the vessel by negotiation, dispose of it as
4 junk, or donate the vessel to any governmental agency."

5 SECTION 5. Section 200-46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 " ~~[+]§200-46[+]~~ **Effect of sale.** The transfer of interest
8 by sale hereunder shall be evidenced by a bill of sale from the
9 [~~department,~~] appropriate state or county agency, shall be
10 considered a transfer by operation of law, and shall be governed
11 by provisions applicable thereto."

12 SECTION 6. Section 200-47, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§200-47 Disposition of proceeds.** [~~The department~~] A
15 state or county agency that sells a vessel pursuant to this part
16 shall deposit that portion of the proceeds of the sale of [a]
17 the vessel that represents the mooring or other fees and charges
18 due the [~~department~~] agency, the expenses of the auction, and
19 any other expense incurred by the [~~department~~] agency in taking
20 into custody and disposing of an abandoned vessel, derelict
21 vessel, or vessel impounded under section 200-16, into the
22 boating special fund or other state or county fund, as



1 appropriate, from which the expenses incurred in connection with
2 the vessel were paid. The balance, if any, shall be deposited
3 into the general fund of the State. The owner may recover any
4 balance of the proceeds from the State only if the owner files a
5 claim therefor with the department of budget and finance within
6 one year after the execution of the bill of sale. If no claim
7 is made within the year allowed, the money shall become a state
8 realization. A lien holder shall receive priority in payment
9 from the balance of the proceeds to the extent of the lien
10 holder's lien on the vessel. If the proceeds of the sale are
11 insufficient to cover the mooring and other fees and charges,
12 the expenses of the auction, and the other expenses incurred by
13 the [~~department~~] agency in taking into custody and disposing of
14 the vessel, the [~~department~~] agency may bring an action for the
15 deficiency in a court of appropriate jurisdiction against the
16 registered or documented owner or any person who had an interest
17 in the vessel when custody was taken by the [~~department~~]
18 agency."

19 SECTION 7. Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending the title of part IV to read as follows:

21 "PART IV. VESSELS ABANDONED ON [~~BUSINESS~~] PREMISES
22 OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN REPAIR BUSINESS,



1 PRIVATE MARINAS, [~~AND~~] YACHT CLUBS,
2 OR ON OTHER PRIVATE PROPERTY"

3 SECTION 8. Section 200-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§200-51 Disposition of vessels [~~by persons in~~] abandoned
6 on premises of vessel repair business, private marinas, [~~or~~
7 yacht clubs[-], or other private property. When any person
8 abandons a vessel upon the premises of a vessel repair business,
9 a private marina, [~~or~~] a yacht club, or other private property,
10 the owner of the vessel repair business or private marina, or
11 the owner's representative[~~,-or~~]; the designated representative
12 of the yacht club[~~,-~~]; or the owner of other private property,
13 may sell or dispose of the vessel in [~~accord~~] accordance with
14 this part."

15 SECTION 9. Section 200-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

17 "§200-52 When vessel deemed abandoned[-] on the premises
18 of a vessel repair business, private marina, or yacht club."

19 SECTION 10. Section 200-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 "§200-53 Sale or disposition of vessel. When a vessel is
22 abandoned, the owner of the vessel repair business[~~,-~~] or private



1 marina, or the owner's authorized representative~~[, or]~~; the
 2 designated representative of the yacht club~~[,]~~; or the owner of
 3 other private property, after one public advertisement in a
 4 newspaper of general circulation in the State, may negotiate a
 5 sale of the vessel or dispose of it; provided that the vessel
 6 shall not be sold or disposed of less than five calendar days
 7 after the publication of the advertisement. Upon the sale or
 8 disposal of the vessel under this part, the owner of the vessel
 9 repair business~~[,]~~ or private marina, or the owner's authorized
 10 representative~~[, or]~~; the designated representative of the yacht
 11 club~~[,]~~; or the owner of other private property, shall file an
 12 affidavit with the department stating to whom the vessel was
 13 sold or, if the vessel was not sold, the manner in which the
 14 vessel was disposed of pursuant to this part."

15 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 18 provided that county responsibility under this Act for each
 19 county shall commence:

- 20 (1) Upon a county's access to vessel registration and
- 21 marine document records of the department of land and



1 natural resources or the United States Coast Guard as
2 required under section 1 of this Act; or
3 (2) On January 1, 2013;
4 whichever is earlier.



Report Title:

Vessels; Custody and Disposition

Description:

Clarifies responsibility for disposing of vessels and amends the description of an abandoned vessel. (HB2589 HD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

