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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
TRANSPORTATION**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 93/HOUSE RESOLUTION 77
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
ALLOW THE COUNTIES TO USE VACANT STATE LANDS AS STORAGE
FOR ABANDONED VEHICLES**

House Concurrent Resolution 93/House Resolution 77 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to allow the counties to use vacant state lands for abandoned vehicles. **The Department has concerns regarding these resolutions and offers the following comments.**

On Oahu where land is scarce, the Department may have small remnants or small lots in the urban core, however, these lots often are in the residential or business areas where the Department predicts community opposition to abandoned vehicles in the neighborhoods.

The Counties are always able to request vacant parcels be set aside for a particular purpose such as a landfill or abandoned vehicle site, which would be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Department is concerned about contamination that may be caused by the abandoned vehicles. Therefore, the Counties ought to expect to be responsible for any and all contamination and remediation that may be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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TESTIMONY OF SHERI KAJIWARA, DIRECTOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 9:45 a.m., Conference room 423

SUPPORT OF HCR 93, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO ALLOW THE COUNTIES TO USE VACANT LANDS AS STORAGE FOR
ABANDONED VEHICLES.

TO: The Honorable Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
And Members of the Transportation Committee

The City and County of Honolulu whole-heartedly supports HCR93 and HR77 in its urging of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to allow the counties use of vacant state land for the storage of abandoned vehicles. We thank the multiple introducers for their perceptiveness and understanding of the issue at hand.

An alignment of recent factors have drawn us to this point, and abandoned vehicles have become a safety and environmental concern as well as an aesthetic issue for our island state.

Abandoned vehicles is not simply a city problem. It is one that affects the entire island with many of these vehicles being removed from state highways in addition to city roadways. Affected residents are the vocal constituents of both city and state leaders.

One of the biggest issues the city's contractors face is the lack of available space to store vehicles allowing them to be removed from public roadway. The city has made several failed attempts to assist our contractors in identifying land for storage. We met with the same frustrating results.

Once stored, derelict cars are the quickest to be processed. Vehicles that require owner notification with an allowed period for claiming, must be held longer. At times it is not just the vehicle itself, but the claiming of the contents within the vehicle that a process should allow. Military owned vehicles must be held for a much lengthier time to be in compliance with the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). This requires that the servicemember be located and a signed waiver be sought before any action is taken on the vehicle. We have held such cars for well over a year. We held close to 600 vehicles at the highest point.

Identifying a parcel of land and seeking all of the state and federally required approvals and permits for it use for vehicle storage has been cumbersome and prohibitive. Thus, city and state agencies working together for the public good is the most effective and rational approach.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:20:22 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/21/2018 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janine Tully	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Aquino,

I strongly support the passage of HCR 93 that aims to mitigate the visual blight, safety hazards and environmental impact that abandoned vehicles cause in our communities. While providing additional space to store these vehicles does not solve the problem in the long run, it is a first step toward removing them from our streets where they take up needed parking space.

Towing companies have no more room to store these vehicles, and people, including military personnel, continue to disregard city ordinances by leaving them on the streets.

Something must be done.

I would like to suggest that the Hawaii Tourism Authority also get involved as such a sight along our highways impacts our image as a prime destination point.

Thank you for your time,

Janine Tully

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