WHEREAS, Hawai‘i is the most beautiful state in America and Honolulu is the loveliest capital city, and tourists and residents alike enjoy the beautiful scenery and charming neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, most residents take pains to maintain their properties, but there are those who neglect their homes and allow them to become run-down and a blight upon their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, there may be cases where a wealthy person purchases dozens of homes in a small area, allow many of them to remain vacant, become run-down, broken into by vagrants, become overgrown, and cause neighboring homes to lose value; and

WHEREAS, the City has, in one case, issued over 50 citations to one individual who owns 24 properties when the individual failed to obtain demolition permits, allowed the properties to become overgrown and blighted, and when other county ordinances were violated; and

WHEREAS, a few violations may not seriously impact one neighborhood, but when an owner allows several properties to amass multiple uncorrected violations in a relatively short period of time, creating a public health and blight problem, then the sheer number becomes an egregious insult to other owners and may reduce the value of nearby homes; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in the property value of homes in an entire neighborhood provides grounds for the reduction of real property taxes, creating a perfect storm of events in a time of
global recession when the City and County of Honolulu, like
other counties and the State, are facing budget problems; and

WHEREAS, if a person owns at least five properties that
have amassed five citations in a period of 5 years in a one
square mile area, then it is incumbent on the City to assess a
sufficiently significant fine or penalty to encourage that
person to maintain his property in accordance with community
standards or subdivision covenants; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2010, that the City and County of Honolulu is requested to
increase fines or penalties when an owner is cited for multiple
violations for property violations within a certain time period
and within a certain area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mufi Hannemann, Mayor
of the City & County of Honolulu, all Honolulu City Council
members, the Kahala Community Association, the Kahala Business
Association, and the Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board No. 3.

OFFERED BY:  

JAN 13 2010