
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ABANDONED VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that abandoned vehicles
2 on public roads are a widespread environmental disaster that can
3 adversely impact human health and safety.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the counties to
5 remove and dispose of abandoned vehicles on public roads within
6 ten business days of abandonment.

7 SECTION 2. Section 290-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) The counties [~~may~~] shall cause vehicles that have
10 been abandoned to be taken into custody [~~and disposed of.~~]
11 within ten business days of abandonment. For the purposes of
12 this subsection, a vehicle is "abandoned" if it is defined to be
13 abandoned by an ordinance of the county in which the vehicle is
14 located. In the absence of such an ordinance, a vehicle is
15 "abandoned" if it is left unattended for a continuous period of
16 more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any
17 public highway or other public property or private lands defined



1 as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is
2 adjacent to or part of a public highway. The mayors of the
3 several counties may designate an agency within their counties
4 to carry out the functions and requirements of this section.
5 ~~[The term]~~ For the purposes of this subsection, "agency" means
6 any office, department, or other governmental unit of the
7 county."

8 SECTION 3. Section 290-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§290-2 Notice to owner.** (a) Upon taking custody of any
11 abandoned vehicle, a written notice shall immediately be sent by
12 registered or certified mail to the legal and registered owner
13 of the vehicle at the address on record at the vehicle licensing
14 division. The notice shall contain a brief description of the
15 vehicle, the location of custody, and intended disposition of
16 the vehicle if not repossessed within ten days after the mailing
17 of the notice, or in the case where the address of the
18 registered owner on record at the vehicle licensing division is
19 an out-of-state address, within twenty business days after the
20 mailing of the notice. A notice need not be sent to a legal or
21 registered owner or any person with an unrecorded interest in



1 the vehicle whose name or address cannot be determined. Absent
2 evidence to the contrary, a notice shall be deemed received by
3 the legal or registered owner five days after the mailing.

4 (b) The county agency designated by the mayor to carry out
5 the functions and requirements of section 290-1 and this section
6 shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 regarding notification
7 of vehicle owners.

8 [~~b~~] (c) For purposes of this section, "business days"
9 shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays."

10 SECTION 4. Section 290-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "**§290-3 Public auction.** If the vehicle is not repossessed
13 within the time limits provided in section 290-2, the vehicle
14 [~~shall~~] may be disposed of by public auction, through oral
15 tenders, or by sealed bids, after public advertisement has been
16 made once in a newspaper of general circulation; provided that
17 the public auction shall not be held less than five days after
18 the publication has been made. Where no bid is received, the
19 vehicle may be either sold by negotiation, disposed of or sold
20 as junk, or donated to any governmental agency."



1 SECTION 5. Section 290-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§290-8 Derelict vehicle. A vehicle shall be deemed a
4 derelict vehicle by the administrative head of the county agency
5 designated to carry out section 290-1, or by the executive
6 director or a representative of the executive director of the
7 Hawaii public housing authority in the case of a vehicle that
8 has been abandoned on property owned, managed, or administered
9 by the authority, if ~~[major parts have]~~ a part has been removed
10 or material damage to the vehicle has rendered the vehicle
11 inoperable and one of the following conditions exists:

12 (1) The vehicle is registered for the current registration
13 period and the registered and legal owners no longer
14 reside at the addresses on record with the county
15 director of finance;

16 (2) The vehicle has been registered for the current or
17 previous registration period and the registered and
18 legal owners disclaim ownership~~[+]~~, or a notice of
19 transfer has been submitted by the registered and
20 legal owners and recorded with the director of finance
21 and the new owner has not transferred the title or



1 registration into the new owner's name within thirty
2 days of release;

3 (3) The vehicle identification number and license plates
4 have been removed so as to nullify efforts to locate
5 or identify the current registered and legal owners;

6 (4) The vehicle has not been registered for the [~~current~~
7 ~~or~~] previous [~~registration periods;~~] twelve month
8 period; or

9 (5) The vehicle registration records of the county
10 director of finance contain no record that the vehicle
11 has ever been registered in the county.

12 Prior to authorizing the removal of a derelict vehicle, the
13 administrative head of the county agency designated to carry out
14 section 290-1 or the executive director or a representative of
15 the executive director of the Hawaii public housing authority in
16 the case of vehicles that have been abandoned on property owned,
17 managed, or operated by the authority, shall notify the county
18 chief of police only if the vehicle is reported stolen or
19 otherwise needed for police investigation."

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Abandoned Vehicles; Removal and Disposal; Counties; Public Roads

Description:

Requires the counties to take into custody any abandoned vehicle on a public road within ten business days. Amends the conditions that constitute a derelict vehicle. Allows, rather than requires, that abandoned vehicles be disposed of by public auction. (HB2442 CD1)

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

