
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. Chapter 290, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§290- Rules. The department of transportation shall
11 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to carry out the
12 purposes of this chapter."

13 SECTION 3. Section 290-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15 "(a) The counties [~~may~~] shall cause vehicles that have
16 been abandoned to be taken into custody [~~and disposed of.~~]
17 within business days of abandonment. For the purposes of



1 this subsection, a vehicle is "abandoned" if it is defined to be
 2 abandoned by an ordinance of the county in which the vehicle is
 3 located. In the absence of such an ordinance, a vehicle is
 4 "abandoned" if it is left unattended for a continuous period of
 5 more than twenty-four hours and it is unlawfully parked on any
 6 public highway or other public property or private lands defined
 7 as a setback, shoulder, easement, or right of way that is
 8 adjacent to or part of a public highway. The mayors of the
 9 several counties may designate an agency within their counties
 10 to carry out the functions and requirements of this section.
 11 ~~[The term]~~ For the purposes of this subsection, "agency" means
 12 any office, department, or other governmental unit of the
 13 county."

14 SECTION 4. Section 290-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 15 amended to read as follows:

16 "§290-2 Notice to owner. (a) Upon taking custody of any
 17 abandoned vehicle~~[7]~~ that has been reported stolen, a written
 18 notice shall immediately be sent by registered or certified mail
 19 to the legal and registered owner of the vehicle at the address
 20 on record at the vehicle licensing division. The notice shall
 21 contain a brief description of the vehicle, the location of



1 custody, and intended disposition of the vehicle if not
2 repossessed within ten days after the mailing of the notice, or
3 in the case where the address of the registered owner on record
4 at the vehicle licensing division is an out-of-state address,
5 within twenty business days after the mailing of the notice. A
6 notice need not be sent to a legal or registered owner or any
7 person with an unrecorded interest in the vehicle whose name or
8 address cannot be determined. Absent evidence to the contrary,
9 a notice shall be deemed received by the legal or registered
10 owner five days after the mailing.

11 (b) The county agency designated by the mayor to carry out
12 the functions and requirements of section 290-1 shall adopt
13 rules pursuant to chapter 91 regarding notification of vehicle
14 owners.

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

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

19 "**§290-8 Derelict vehicle.** A vehicle shall be deemed a
20 derelict vehicle by the administrative head of the county agency
21 designated to carry out section 290-1, or by the executive



1 director or a representative of the executive director of the
2 Hawaii public housing authority in the case of a vehicle that
3 has been abandoned on property owned, managed, or administered
4 by the authority, if a major [parts have] part has been removed
5 or material damage to the vehicle has rendered the vehicle
6 inoperable and one of the following conditions exists:

7 (1) The vehicle is registered for the current registration
8 period and the registered and legal owners no longer
9 reside at the addresses on record with the county
10 director of finance;

11 (2) The vehicle has been registered for the current or
12 previous registration period and the registered and
13 legal owners disclaim ownership[+], or a notice of
14 transfer has been submitted by the registered and
15 legal owners and recorded with the director of finance
16 and the new owner has not transferred the title or
17 registration into the new owner's name within thirty
18 days of release;

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



1 (4) The vehicle has not been registered for the [~~current~~
2 ~~or~~] previous [~~registration periods,~~] twelve month
3 period; or

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

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

15 SECTION 6. Section 290-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 repealed.

17 [~~"§290-3 Public auction. If the vehicle is not~~
18 ~~repossessed within the time limits provided in section 290-2,~~
19 ~~the vehicle shall be disposed of by public auction, through oral~~
20 ~~tenders, or by sealed bids, after public advertisement has been~~
21 ~~made once in a newspaper of general circulation; provided that~~



1 ~~the public auction shall not be held less than five days after~~
2 ~~the publication has been made. Where no bid is received, the~~
3 ~~vehicle may be either sold by negotiation, disposed of or sold~~
4 ~~as junk, or donated to any governmental agency."]~~

5 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2100.

8



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. Specifies that the requirement to provide written notice to the registered owner of an abandoned vehicle under section 290-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, applies only to abandoned vehicles that have been reported stolen. Amends the conditions that constitute a derelict vehicle. Repeals the requirement that abandoned vehicles be disposed of by public auction. Takes effect on 1/1/2100. (SD2)

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