



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES TO IMPROVE ITS PROCEDURES IN MONITORING TAXICAB DRIVERS.

WHEREAS, recent incidents involving the alleged sexual assault of taxicab passengers by a taxicab driver have renewed concerns regarding requisite qualifications for taxicab drivers and documentation necessary to obtain a taxicab driver's certificate; and

WHEREAS, of primary concern is the health, safety, and welfare of taxicab passengers and the general public; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-1.9, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended, authorizes the Director of Customer Services to issue taxicab driver's certificates, and to promulgate rules governing the standards of moral character and physical fitness that applicants must satisfy to obtain such certificates; and

WHEREAS, taxicab businesses rely on the City's determination as to whether a taxicab driver poses a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, media reports relating to taxicab driver certification have raised concerns regarding matters such as the maintenance of taxicab driver records, criminal background checks, and the standards of moral character and physical fitness needed to obtain a taxicab driver's certificate; and

WHEREAS, according to a Honolulu Star-Advertiser report on October 13, 2015, it was noted that there are about 2,480 taxicab drivers working on Honolulu and that most of the City's taxi records on the drivers are maintained manually; and

WHEREAS, it was also reported by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that if a taxicab driver is convicted of a disqualifying offense, such as driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the Department of Customer Services currently has no way of knowing about it until the next time the driver's certificate is up for renewal and the background check is run by the Honolulu Police Department; and

WHEREAS, City officials are also unable to quickly gather, analyze, and track down information relating to when a taxicab certificate is up for renewal since many drivers are issued multiple concurrent certificates; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Council believes that there is a compelling public need to evaluate the procedures for the certification of taxicab drivers to ensure that the public is not placed at risk due to exposure to unsuitable taxicab drivers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the Department of Customer Services to review its current taxicab policies and procedures and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council and the State Legislature as to any legislation that may be needed to improve those policies and procedures so as to better protect taxicab passengers and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Customer Services is requested to improve its procedures in monitoring taxicab drivers by computerizing its taxicab records; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Customer Services is requested to work with other agencies of the City administration, such as the Department of Corporation Counsel and the Honolulu Police Department to look into the feasibility of conducting initial drug testing prior to certification and, thereafter, random drug testing for taxicab drivers to ensure greater safety of taxicab passengers and the general public; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 16-17

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Director of the Department of Customer Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JAN 22 2016

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
JAN 22 2016

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 16-17

Introduced: 01/22/16

By: RON MENOR

Committee: TRANSPORTATION

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES TO IMPROVE ITS PROCEDURES IN MONITORING TAXICAB DRIVERS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

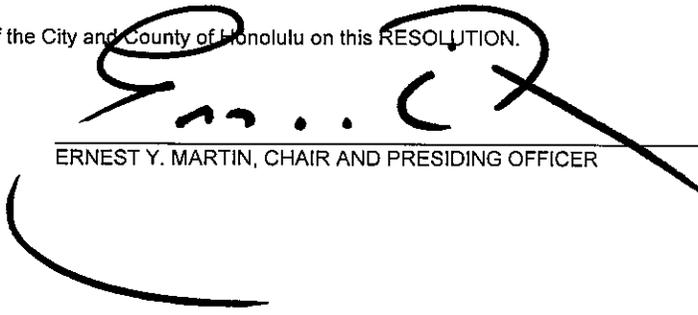
02/11/16 TRANSPORTATION CR-54 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.

02/17/16 COUNCIL CR-54 AND RESOLUTION 16-17 WERE ADOPTED.
9 AYES: ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN,
MENOR, OZAWA, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER