

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
CITY CLERK

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi:

This is to inform you that the following Resolutions 18-73, urging the City Administration to facilitate the development of a motor vehicle racetrack or raceway park on Oahu, was adopted by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu at its meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. As directed by the Resolution, a copy is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen I. Takahashi", is written over a circular stamp.

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI
City Clerk

jm

Attachments



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE RACETRACK OR RACEWAY PARK ON OAHU.

WHEREAS, auto racing on Oahu dates back to the 1950s, when drag racing took place in remote locations around the island, and in later years, when auto racing was staged in makeshift locations that included Honolulu Stadium in McCully and Kahuku Airfield; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii Raceway Park opened in 1962 on a 66-acre plot of land that bordered Campbell Industrial Park and grew to include a 1.32 mile road course, a ¼ mile drag strip, a ¼ mile dirt oval, and a paved motorized kart track; and

WHEREAS, for decades, Hawaii Raceway Park provided a safe and supervised venue for motor sport enthusiasts to race a variety of vehicles, including drag racers, street cars, motorcycles, and motorized karts; and

WHEREAS, after 44 years of operations, Hawaii Raceway Park closed in 2006, leaving racing enthusiasts without a place to legally race on Oahu; and

WHEREAS, although a legal venue to race no longer exists on Oahu, the desire and passion for racing has not diminished as evidenced by anecdotal yet common stories of vehicles blocking traffic on the H-1 Freeway during certain early morning hours to hold urban races, as well as by tragic accounts like that of the driver who critically injured a bicyclist on a hilly road above Honolulu while drift racing with another car earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, the fear among law enforcement, community residents, and the general public is that without a legal venue for racing, the incidences of illegal racing on public streets and highways will only increase, along with the number of accidents, injuries, and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, each of the neighbor island counties has at least one raceway park or racetrack to provide drivers a legal and controlled alternative to racing on public streets and highways, including Maui Raceway Park, Kauai Raceway Park, and the Hilo Drag Strip on Hawaii Island; and

WHEREAS, despite being the island with the most people and vehicles, Oahu has not had a legal racing venue for the last 12 years; and



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WHEREAS, to date, no alternative site for a racetrack or raceway park has been identified on Oahu since the closure of Hawaii Raceway Park in 2006; and

WHEREAS, State legislators have already expressed their desire to provide a racetrack facility through the introduction of concurrent resolutions H.C.R. No. 14 and S.C.R. No. 20 in the 2018 legislative session, which call for the State Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to: 1) identify possible State-owned land on Oahu to build a racetrack facility, 2) collaborate with racing enthusiasts and organizations to discuss racing needs on Oahu, and 3) upon identifying State-owned land, enter into a public-private partnership by issuing a request for proposal to design, finance, construct, and operate a racetrack facility on this land; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the need for an Oahu raceway park or racetrack is urgent, longstanding, and a matter of public safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to facilitate the development of a racetrack or raceway park on Oahu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration, in facilitating the development of a racetrack or raceway park on Oahu, take certain actions including, but not limited to, determining whether there are City-owned properties that may be suitable as the site of a racetrack or raceway park, and working with State of Hawaii legislators and the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to achieve the common goal of establishing an Oahu racetrack or raceway park; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, Managing Director, President of the Hawaii State Senate, Speaker of the Hawaii State House of Representatives, and the State of Hawaii Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

INTRODUCED BY:

M. K. K. K.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 27 2018

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 18-73

Introduced: 03/27/18 By: ANN KOBAYASHI

Committee: PARKS, COMMUNITY AND
CUSTOMER SERVICES

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
RACETRACK OR RACEWAY PARK ON OAHU.

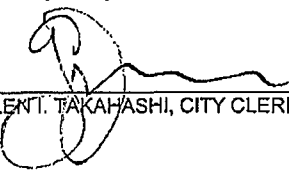
Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

CC-118 KOBAYASHI – RE-REFERRAL FROM TRANSPORTATION TO PARKS,
COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

04/17/18 PARKS, COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES CR-131 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.

04/25/18 COUNCIL CR-131 AND RESOLUTION 18-73 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 T. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER