

A Bill for an Act Relating to Lost and Found Money or Property at Airports.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read:

“Sec. 261- Lost and found money or property at airports. All money or property found at an airport owned or controlled by the department shall be reported or delivered by the finder to the airport lost and found, and when so delivered shall be held by the department for forty-five days or until claimed by some person who establishes title or right of custody thereto to the satisfaction of the department. In the event of such establishment of title or right of custody, the money or property shall be delivered to the claimant by the director or his agent. If within forty-five days no claimant establishes a right to the money or property, the money or property shall be returned to the person who delivered it to the airport lost and found; provided that if the person who delivered it to the airport lost and found fails to claim the money or property within thirty days after being notified by the director, the director shall deposit the money into the state treasury to the credit of the airport revenue fund or shall dispose of the property by public auction. At least once annually, the director shall place a notice in a newspaper of general circulation giving details as to time and place of the auction and giving notice to all persons interested or claiming the property that unless claims are made by persons who can provide satisfactory proof of ownership before a specified date, the property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. On the day and at the place specified in the notice, all property for which no satisfactory proof of ownership is made shall be sold by auction by or under the direction of the director.

If any property which is of a perishable nature or unreasonably expensive to keep or safeguard, remains unclaimed at the airport, the director may sell that property at public auction, at such time and after such notice as is reasonable under the circumstances. The director shall immediately after the sale of any property pay to the airport revenue fund all moneys received by him upon sale.

For the purpose of this section, notice by regular mail to the last known address of the person who delivered the money or property to the airport lost and found shall be deemed sufficient.”

SECTION 2. Section 52-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

“**Sec. 52-15 Duty and right of finders.** Except as provided in section 261- , all money or property found shall be reported or delivered by the finder to the chief of police of the county, and, when so delivered, shall be held by the chief of police for forty-five days or until claimed by some person who establishes title or right of custody thereto to the satisfaction of the chief of police. In the event of such establishment of title or right of custody, the money or property shall be delivered to the claimant by the chief of police. If no claim is made or no such right is established within the forty-five days, the money or property shall be returned to the person who delivered it to the chief of police; provided that if the person who delivered it to the chief of police fails to claim the money or property within thirty days after being notified by the chief of police that he is entitled to possession, the chief of police shall dispose of the money or property in accordance with the procedures established in section 52-11. For the purpose of this part, notice by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the person who delivered the money or property to the chief of police, shall be deemed sufficient.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 21, 1980.)

*The text has been edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5, authorizing omission of the brackets, bracketed material, and underscoring.