HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 26-265

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPEDITE THE COMPLETION OF THE KALAELOA INTERIM RACETRACK.

WHEREAS, in June 2024, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") acquired approximately 400 acres of former Naval Air Station Barbers Point land for public park and public recreation area purposes and initiated long-term planning through the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") to develop the underutilized space; and

WHEREAS, since the acquisition, the DPR has been actively preparing a Master Plan to transform the property into Kalaeloa Regional Park to accommodate a diverse range of recreational activities and uses; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan is subject to approval by the National Park Service ("NPS") pursuant to federal laws governing the transfer of former military lands, requiring a multi-year process that integrates extensive public feedback, environmental assessments, and cultural reviews; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan is expected to feature a permanent racetrack with amenities to be phased in over several years as capital improvement funding becomes available; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2025, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Mayor announced plans for an interim dirt racetrack ("interim racetrack") on undeveloped park land referred to as Lot 13060, at the corner of Independence Avenue and Coral Sea Road; and

WHEREAS, in a January 22, 2026 interview, the Director of Parks and Recreation confirmed that the NPS approved the interim racetrack as a temporary facility for public use while the City continues development of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the interim racetrack, which requires no permanent capital improvements and would occupy approximately 20 acres of undeveloped park land, will be developed through a public-private partnership with the O'ahu Motorsports Association and longtime racetrack and motorsports advocate Li Cobian; and

WHEREAS, the interim racetrack is a much-anticipated recreational resource, coming 20 years after the 2006 closure of Hawai'i Raceway Park, which left the island of O'ahu without a dedicated motorsports venue; and

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WHEREAS, the interim racetrack has the potential to curb illegal street racing and off-roading while activating a site currently plagued by trespassing and unauthorized activities; and

WHEREAS, although it remains unclear what preliminary measures, if any, the DPR has taken to advance the interim racetrack, the designated park area remains undeveloped and unutilized for its intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the timely establishment of the interim racetrack is essential to meeting the recreational needs of the community and to protecting public safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to expedite the completion of the Kalaeloa interim racetrack; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 9 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

OCS2026-0694/11/9/2026 10:32 AM

Report Title:
Kalaeloa Interim Racetrack; Temporary Dirt Racetrack; Kalaeloa Regional Park; Naval Air Station Barbers Point; National Parks Service ("NPS"); Master Plan; O'ahu Motorsports Association; Oahu Motorsports Association; Independence Avenue; Coral Sea Road; Illegal Street Racing; Off-roading; Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR")

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