

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 13, 2025
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

**S.B. 1216, S.D. 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Transportation

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent of S.B. 1216, S.D. 1**, which conditions the issuance of a certificate of inspection for a moped or motor vehicle that has been equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system and addresses the penalties of an official inspection station for the violation of any rule regarding inspecting a noisy muffler or exhaust system.

The HDOT supports the intent of this bill as this would promote adherence of proper vehicle and moped general safety standard as the HDOT has received numerous calls and e-mails from residents, impacted by the noisy aftermarket mufflers. We support any attempts to reduce the exhaust noise problem.

Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 19-133.5 provides for suspension and revocation of certifications for individual inspectors and official inspection stations for failure to inspect vehicles as required by Section 19-133.2-36 (Inspection of exhaust system). This includes a procedure for notice of infraction, hearing, and penalties. However, HDOT notes that vehicle owners can switch out system components after inspections.

To address noise pollution, the HDOT is launching the noise detection camera pilot later this year and will share the data with partners to better plan their enforcement and education efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:41:39 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jillian Anderson | Waikiki Neighborhood Board | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD

Legislative Permitted Interaction Group

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board stands in **support** of SB1216 SD1.

One of the most frequent complaints of Waikiki residents is noise, and in particular, noisy mufflers. In fact, one is audible as this very line of testimony is being written.

On a monthly basis members of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board press HPD on noisy muffler enforcement, which on average is being cited at a rate of 1 - 3 violators in an entire month. The difficulty of our officers being exposed to on-view violations makes rates of enforcement for current laws extremely low. It is for this reason that alternative points of enforcement, like that created by SB1216 SD1, are crucial.

Checking if vehicles are equipped with noisy mufflers or exhaust systems during safety checks is a simple addition and one that could further deter these immensely disruptive equipment modifications.

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board asks for your continued support of this measure which would greatly benefit our community.

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 12:05:43 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Manabo Sato | Moped Doctors | Oppose | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members, I am Manabo Sato, Co founder and Vice President of Moped Doctors, a local moped sales and repair shop here in Hawaii for 15 years. I am also the chief safety inspector for State safety inspection station number 1926 which focuses on mopeds. We worked with the state Dept. of Transportation in 2016 to finalize noise measuring standards for the moped safety program.

Moped Doctors strongly opposes SB1216 as it not only targets the violators of noise ordinance levels but also us, the very safety inspectors who are doing our best on a daily basis as the frontline against loud vehicles, mopeds in our case. Plus, car and motorcycle safety inspectors currently do not have a dedicated sound check portion unlike mopeds.

There are MANY MORE car and motorcycle inspectors than moped safety inspectors. This large number of inspectors will have to take on the additional costs, burden, stress, time and training to accommodate the proposed standards. It would also PUNISH those of us doing our jobs in the moped safety inspection roles by revoking our licenses in the event a violator of a noisy offending vehicle is traced back to our inspection site and we are burdened with the proof of proving said vehicle in violation was compliant at the time of inspection at our station and that we wouldn't be able to prove that the muffler/vehicle was altered later after inspection.

We have little issue raising fines and other penalties for noisy, loud offending vehicles but we do find fault with making it the burden and problem of existing inspectors like we moped people who are already doing the best we can. Threatening us with the loss of our valuable and hard earned safety inspection licenses and shifting the blame of overly loud cars and motorcycles to the already busy and overburdened car and motorcycle inspectors statewide with the threat of them losing their licenses is neither fair, equitable or right.

Also, as nearly silent electric powered motorcycles and cars increase in number and combustion engine counterparts decrease, the need for sound checks on the car/motorcycle side becomes even more moot.

We instead recommend a stronger enforcement and response of the existing vehicle/car/motorcycle/moped noise laws as a true deterrent to drivers who insist on running these outlaw parts on their cars, motorcycles and mopeds.

Mahalo,

Manabo Sato

Mooed Doctors



**MOTORCYCLE
INDUSTRY
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March 12, 2025

The Honorable Darius Kila
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
415 S Beretania Street
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 322
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1216 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Chairman Kila:

Hundreds of companies represented by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)¹ oppose unless amended SB 1216, which prohibits a person from using on public highways, selling, offering for sale, altering, or installing a muffler, including but not limited to a cut-out, bypass, or similar device, that will noticeably increase noise emitted by the motor vehicle above that emitted by vehicle as equipped from factory and requires a vehicle to not be equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system to be issued a certificate of inspection. **We respectfully request that SB 1216 be amended, similar to the amended version of HB 102, to specify that any original equipment manufacturer or aftermarket exhaust system that is compliant with U.S. EPA regulations is legal.**

SB 1216 does not consider or provide for the installation and use of original equipment or aftermarket replacement exhaust system component parts and mufflers that are certified by the manufacturer to be legal and compliant with Federal EPA noise regulations governing motorcycle exhaust systems. There should be no prohibition against the modification, including the installation of replacement parts, as long as the modification does not result in noise levels that exceed federal sound limits.

We urge SB 1216 be amended as follows:

§291-24.5 Motor vehicle muffler. (a) No person shall use on a public highway, sell, offer for sale, alter, or install a muffler, including but not limited to a cut-out, bypass, or similar device, that will noticeably increase the noise emitted by a motor vehicle above that emitted by the vehicle as equipped from the factory, except for motorcycles and mopeds that do not exceed U.S. EPA regulations, as specified in 40 CFR § 205.152.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 1216 unless amended. Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sschloegel@mic.org or 703-416-0444 x 3202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott P. Schloegel", is written over a white background.

Scott P. Schloegel
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

¹ The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing several hundred manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle parts, accessories and related goods, and allied trades.

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:24:08 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Heidi A. Meeker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair

House Committee on Transportation

Members of the Committee

My name is Heidi A. Meeker. I am a 32 year resident of Kakaako, in a building that faces Kapiolani Boulevard on its mauka end. I deeply appreciate that you are hearing SB1216 which seems to be the only chance Kakaako residents might have for a little peace and quiet during the night.

We have to more fully acknowledge that we are now a big city, with big city problems. In the past 30 years the traffic along Kapiolani has increased and so have the residential towers that parallel my building. While we've always had "hot rods", we've never had so many vehicle and motorcycle deviants who are deliberately fixing their machines to maximize noise. The requirement that the new buildings orient themselves mauka to makai means they act like a megaphone, amplifying the street noise.

SB1216 will bring attention to this problem and will slowly help to eliminate the nightly disruptions. Please help us voters trapped by ugly noise. Thank you.

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:01:21 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Don Baluran | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Vehicle noise is getting out of control. I support this bill. Mahalo!

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:43:12 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in full support. Noise is the major complaint of residents nationwide. It affects people's health.
Please move this bill forward

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:59:34 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ryan Willis | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:03:00 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kanoë Willis | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly oppose

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:19:23 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:16:43 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Eileen Hilton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

3/12/25 RE:SB1216 SD1,

Dear Chair Kila and committee members, the Windward Coalition strongly supports this bill that will condition the issuance of a vehicle inspection certificate on the vehicle not being equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system.

We believe this bill will result in:

- Noise reduction: The bill would help reduce noise pollution with its well documented adverse medical effects.
- Improved quality of life: Quieter streets and neighborhoods leads to a better quality of life for Hawaii residents, particularly in urban areas.
- Environmental benefits: Standard exhaust systems may lead to reduced emissions and improved air quality.

The Windward Coalition strongly supports this bill and hope it will be passed..

Mahalo for your time and consideration of our submission.

Eileen Hilton, MD, President, Windward Coalition

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 3:23:38 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Rosenman | Individual | Oppose | In Person |

Comments:

Mopeds don't required insurance , why there is no exception for it on this bill ?

Thanks

Mike

SB-1216-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:05:39 PM

Testimony for TRN on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank Schultz | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this initiative.