
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the last fifteen
2 years, noise levels have risen six-fold in major cities
3 throughout the United States. For many communities, noise
4 generated by highway traffic not only creates environmental
5 problems for residents, but can also have a negative impact on
6 student learning. As the number of cars on Hawaii's highways
7 increases, highway noise contributes to serious hazards to
8 public health and welfare and degrades the quality of life for
9 many communities.

10 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of
11 transportation to use federal funds to construct sound barriers
12 as mandated under this Act along existing and future highways in
13 order to mitigate the negative impact of highway noise.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 264, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:



1 "§264- Construction of sound barriers along highways.

2 The department of transportation shall construct sound barriers
3 along federal-aid highways during the design or redesign and
4 construction or reconstruction phases of any new or existing
5 federal-aid highway project, when a determination is made that
6 federal highway funds are available to pay for the federal share
7 of the cost of constructing the barriers, especially in the Aiea
8 area on the island of Oahu.

9 The department shall also plan and construct sound barriers
10 along existing highways to abate longstanding noise problems for
11 adjacent buildings and communities.

12 As used in this section, "sound barriers" means solid or
13 non-solid obstructions built between the highway and homes or
14 buildings situated along the highway, which reduce noise
15 levels."

16 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall conduct
17 a study to determine the costs and alternatives to constructing
18 sound barriers on state and county rights-of-way abutting the H-
19 1 freeway, running between the freeway interchange at Aloha
20 Stadium and the Pearl City off-ramp. The department shall
21 submit a report, including any proposed legislation, no later



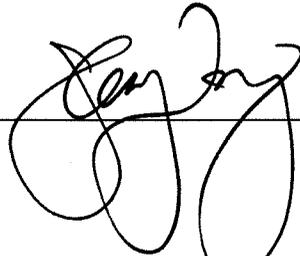
1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
2 of 2008

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007;
5 provided that section 3 shall take effect upon approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY: _____



JAN 23 2007

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Report Title:

Transportation; Sound Barriers

Description:

Requires the department of transportation to construct sound barriers along federal-aid highways during the design or redesign and construction or reconstruction phases of any new or existing federal-aid highway project. Requires the construction of sound barriers along existing highways, especially in the Aiea area of Oahu, where there is a longstanding noise problem for adjacent buildings and communities. Requires the department of transportation to conduct a study on the costs or alternatives to constructing sound barriers for the area abutting the H-1 freeway from Aloha Stadium to the Pearl City off-ramp.

