

MAR 10 2017

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO REVISE THEIR PRACTICES TO ALLEVIATE  
THE EFFECTS OF AUDIBLE REVERSE WARNING SYSTEMS, OR BACK-UP  
BEEPERS, ON REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

1           WHEREAS, the regulations of the Occupational Safety and  
2 Health Administration concerning the use of backup beepers, at  
3 29 C.F.R. 1926.601(b)(4), do not specifically address refuse  
4 collection vehicles; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, among the industries that the Occupational Safety  
7 and Health Administration does regulate, such as construction,  
8 vehicles with an obstructed view to the rear are permitted to  
9 reverse by either using an audible reverse warning system or an  
10 observer who signals that it is safe to reverse the motor  
11 vehicle; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, in a 2010 report entitled *Technology for a Quieter*  
14 *America*, the National Academy of Engineering cited backup  
15 beepers as one of the six top noise sources people associated  
16 with behavioral and emotional consequence; and

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18           WHEREAS, while the standard back-up beeper uses a single  
19 tone, typically at a volume of ninety-seven to one hundred  
20 twelve decibels, and can be heard from blocks away, the  
21 effectiveness of back-up beepers is diminished due to background  
22 noise, unconscious adjustment to the overuse of alarms, and the  
23 difficulty of the listener in pinpointing its location; and

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25           WHEREAS, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and  
26 Health's recommended exposure limit for occupational noise  
27 exposures of workers was first established in 1998 and is set at  
28 eighty-five decibels, A-weighted (db(A)) for an eight-hour time-  
29 weighted average, meaning a person continuously exposed to  
30 eighty-five dB(A) over an eight-hour work shift will reach one  
31 hundred per cent of the person's daily noise dose; and  
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# S.C.R. NO. 115

1           WHEREAS, there are existing alternative technologies that  
2 are less intrusive than the standard back-up beeper, including  
3 ambient-sensitive, self-adjusting backup alarms that increase or  
4 decrease their volume based on background noise levels,  
5 manually-adjusted alarms, broadband beepers, backup cameras, and  
6 radar systems; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration, as part of its  
9 "Making Work Zones Work Better" workshop series, identified  
10 several noise control options for construction equipment back-up  
11 beepers, including self-adjusting alarms, manually-adjusted  
12 alarms, using an observer instead of an alarm, and configuring  
13 traffic patterns to minimize backing movement; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, in Hawaii's noise pollution law at section 342F-1,  
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, "excessive noise" is defined in part as  
17 noise emitted at "a volume or in quantities and for durations  
18 which endangers human health, welfare or safety, animal life, or  
19 property or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable  
20 enjoyment of life and property"; now, therefore,

21  
22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
24 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature finds  
25 that reducing refuse collection vehicles' use of back-up beepers  
26 and instead having a co-worker direct the reversing vehicle will  
27 increase the quality of residents' lives without reducing  
28 safety; and

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30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county practices be revised to  
31 utilize alternative methods of signaling when backing up refuse  
32 collection vehicles, other than an audible reverse warning  
33 system, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any day of the week;  
34 and

35  
36           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and  
38 Chairperson of the Council of each county, all of whom are, in  
39 turn, requested to transmit copies to the head of each  
40 department or agency, as the case may be, within their



respective jurisdictions.

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OFFERED BY:

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