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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO COMPILE STUDIES AND MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE AND COUNTY LEGISLATION TO BEST  
PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM NOISE POLLUTION IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, unwanted and disturbing sound increases the risk  
2 for a variety of negative health outcomes, such as heart  
3 disease, diabetes, hypertension, hearing loss, and sleep  
4 disturbance; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, environmental noise, also known as noise  
7 pollution, is unwanted or harmful outdoor noise created by human  
8 activities, including noise emitted by several means of  
9 transportation and from sites of industrial activities; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, tens of millions of Americans suffer from a range  
12 of adverse health outcomes due to noise exposure, including  
13 heart disease and hearing loss; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, two studies in 2013, involving millions of British  
16 residents living near airports, reported an association between  
17 exposure to airport noise and increased hospital admissions for  
18 cardiovascular disease; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, according to the European Environmental Agency,  
21 environmental noise causes at least ten thousand cases of  
22 premature death in Europe each year, with almost twenty million  
23 adults suffering annoyance and a further eight million suffering  
24 sleep disturbance; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, according to the European Court of Human Rights in  
27 2003, sleep is an essential part of healthy life and is  
28 recognized as a fundamental right under the European Convention  
29 on Human Rights; and



1 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has identified noise  
2 as the second most significant environmentally related cause of  
3 ill health, second only to air pollution; and  
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5 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Clean Air Act, the Administrator  
6 of the federal Environmental Protection Agency established the  
7 Office of Noise Abatement and Control to investigate and study  
8 noise and its effect on public health and welfare; and  
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10 WHEREAS, through the Office of Noise Abatement and Control,  
11 the Environmental Protection Agency coordinated all federal  
12 noise control activities, but in 1981, it was determined that  
13 noise issues were best handled at the state and local level of  
14 government; and  
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16 WHEREAS, as a result of the 1981 determination, the Office  
17 of Noise Abatement and Control was closed and primary  
18 responsibility of addressing noise issues was transferred to  
19 state and local governments; and  
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21 WHEREAS, different areas around the State have different  
22 levels of noise pollution from various sources and may require  
23 different recommendations than those of the continental United  
24 States or other countries; now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
29 requested to compile studies and make recommendations for state  
30 and county legislation to best protect residents from noise  
31 pollution in the State; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
34 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
35 recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the  
36 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
37 the Regular Session of 2020; and



# H.C.R. NO. 205

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

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MAR - 9 2018

