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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE CUMULATIVE HEALTH EFFECTS OF PERSISTENT URBAN NOISE IN HONOLULU.

1 WHEREAS, comprehensive research has shown that there is a  
2 direct link between excessive noise and health issues, such as  
3 stress-related illnesses, high blood pressure, hearing loss,  
4 sleep disruption, and lost productivity; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and  
7 Prevention found that hearing loss can result from a single loud  
8 sound, like firecrackers, near a person's ear, or more often,  
9 can result gradually from damage caused by repeated exposure to  
10 loud sounds -- the louder the sound, the shorter the amount of  
11 time it takes for hearing loss to occur and the longer the  
12 exposure, the greater the risk for hearing loss; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, when noise is considered in its entirety and not  
15 solely by individual measurements or considerations, it can have  
16 a detrimental cumulative effect; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, aggregated unrestrained noises occurring around  
19 the clock can significantly affect the quality of life of  
20 Honolulu's urban dwellers and detract from a sustainable,  
21 livable urban environment; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the residents of urban Honolulu experience noise  
24 as part of an increasingly loud urban soundscape; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, some of the frequent and pervasive urban noise  
27 derived from various sources include:



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- 1 (1) Buses "kneeling" along the Beretania Street, Hotel  
2 Street, and King Street routes, which generate a  
3 hydraulic noise followed by a beeping noise;  
4
- 5 (2) The high-pitched and extremely piercing sirens of  
6 police vehicles, fire trucks, and ambulances;  
7
- 8 (3) The downshifting of fire trucks traveling down Nuuanu  
9 Avenue to King Street;  
10
- 11 (4) Garbage trucks circling through Chinatown and downtown  
12 Honolulu with their back-up beepers and rattling large  
13 containers beginning at 4:30 a.m. and sometimes as  
14 early as 2:30 a.m.;
- 15
- 16 (5) Honking car horns and car alarms at unpredictable  
17 times;  
18
- 19 (6) Tourist trolley bells clanging three to four jingles  
20 in a row;  
21
- 22 (7) Squealing noises that are particularly penetrating and  
23 intense from poorly maintained brakes of buses,  
24 garbage trucks, and tourist trolleys;  
25
- 26 (8) Loud motorcycle engines that can also trigger more  
27 noise by setting off car alarms;  
28
- 29 (9) Mopeds without mufflers or with modified mufflers; and  
30
- 31 (10) Back-up beepers on various vehicles that can be heard  
32 from blocks away, which are especially noticeable at  
33 night and in the early morning; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, other sources of noise that contribute to the  
36 urban cacophony and discord include:

- 37
- 38 (1) Low-frequency repetitive bass music that emanates with  
39 occasional spikes in volume from music playing at area  
40 venues, especially open-air venues;



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- 1 (2) Smokers congregating outside their favorite bar or  
2 restaurant, often continuing until 2:00 a.m. or later;  
3
- 4 (3) Leaf blowers in the street, in parks, and around  
5 residential buildings during and outside legally  
6 permitted times;  
7
- 8 (4) Persons whistling and yelling at each other throughout  
9 the night; and  
10
- 11 (5) Homeless campers creating various noises, including  
12 the occasional quarrel or fight; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, other more-intermittent noises contribute to  
15 additional disruptive noise that intrudes on urban residents  
16 throughout the day and night, such as:

- 17
- 18 (1) Power washing of streets and private plazas;  
19
- 20 (2) Grease trap pumping at some restaurants, starting as  
21 early as 6:00 a.m. and utilizing a very loud motor;  
22
- 23 (3) Street cleaning machines that tend to be operated  
24 around 4:30 a.m.;  
25
- 26 (4) Recycling operations from bars that involve a large  
27 dump of glass bottles all at once and sorting of  
28 individual bottles, several times a week at  
29 unpredictable hours; and  
30
- 31 (5) Harbor noise, including loud hammering; now,  
32 therefore,  
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
36 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the State Auditor, in  
37 consultation with the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the  
38 University of Hawaii at Manoa, is requested to conduct a study  
39 on the cumulative health effects of persistent urban noise in  
40 Honolulu; and



