SB-2158
Submitted on: 2/27/2022 2:11:54 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steve Lohse	Testifying for Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA), thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony In Support of sb2158.

There are thousands of residents in Chinatown, and emergency vehicle sirens are excessively disturbing day and night in this small area. Please allow emergency vehicles flexibility not to engage sirens in situations where sirens are not necessay for public safety, which we see that frequently they are not.

Please pass sb2158. Thank you!

SB-2158
Submitted on: 2/27/2022 2:53:59 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/28/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
michael ferdun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I live downtown on the main route for Fire and EMS to deploy Makai from their station on Beretania& Bishop, it is severely distressing as it echos off the buildings, coming down Nu'uanu Ave, even 3 blocks away, going Ewa on Beretania, it is appears unnecessary levels considering the environment. Please make the city livable from the constant sources of unnecessary noise pollution, including this one.

a hui ho

February 28, 2022

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2022

RE: S.B. 2158; RELATING TO THE USE OF SIRENS BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, speaking as a private citizen, I **strongly support** the passage of S.B. 2158.

My family and I have lived in the same location for nearly 30 years, in the vicinity of two hospitals and a fire station, and the issue of late-night sirens (from emergency response vehicles) has been an ongoing problem that has gone through ups and downs—periods when it was better or worse—but still continues to this day, as recently as **last night**. Rather than simply using sirens as a warning when approaching intersections, sirens are sometimes kept on continuously as the emergency vehicle travels through the neighborhood—sometimes blasting their horns as well. While the problem has subsided somewhat in the past year or two, there have been other years when we would be awoken four (4) times in the same week, between 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Sometimes there are two occurrences in the same night.

While I understand the need to protect the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles, our neighborhood is EXTREMELY quiet during the late-night and early-morning hours, emergency lights are very easy to see at those times, and there are practically no other vehicles or pedestrians on our roads after 9 or 10 pm. In 2013, my partner & I actually went door-to-door in our neighborhood, collecting signatures from other people who were also very concerned about this issue. Within 2 1/2 hours, we collected 96 signatures (see attached), nearly all from different households. Using this list, we tried to communicate our concerns to the ambulance and fire truck drivers—via the neighborhood board and others—with some success…but the problem seems to improve for a while, then resurface again, time and again.

Unfortunately, I have not had time to create a new petition, nor go out and collect signatures again, but I imagine that many of the people who were bothered by this before continue to be bothered by it now, just as my family and I are. We would like to note that we are extremely grateful to those late-night ambulance and fire truck drivers in our area who have switched to "chirping" their sirens, only when approaching intersections. However, this practice is inconsistent, and we still hear late-night sirens blaring continuously throughout the neighborhood, again, as recently as last night. Last night's occurrence also included horns.

As a final note, I am not entirely sure that the amendments proposed in S.B. 2158 would directly address our ongoing problem, but I do believe that something should be done on a legislative level to address this…so perhaps it is worth a try, or perhaps more could be written into the bill, if a solution can be found in time. Aloha for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Tricia Nakamatsu

We, the people signed below, greatly appreciate the important service and dedication of our City and County ambulance & fire truck drivers. However, please understand that we try very hard to be good neighbors to our neighborhood hospitals and fire house, so we would humbly ask them to do the same for us. When ambulances and/or fire trucks run through our streets late at night or early in the morning, with their sirens blasting the entire way, or sometimes even honking their horns along the way, it is very very loud for all of us who live here. It can—and does—wake us up at all hours of the night, rattle our otherwise quiet homes and neighborhood, and affect our daily lives…sometimes even our ability to concentrate or do our own jobs.

Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., and especially during the hours when it is dark enough for vehicles & pedestrians to see an emergency vehicle's flashing lights, please do not keep sirens on continuously as you travel through our residential streets. There is very little traffic on our streets during these hours, and most of us are in our homes and/or sound asleep. We do understand if sirens must be "chirped" at busy intersections or other important safety points, but please remember to place some value our family's peace & quiet…and sleep.

Thank you very much for your help and understanding. We will continue to be supportive and live side-by-side with eveyrone as a community, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely ~ Your neighbors and residents of Lanakila & lower Liliha

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