
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO ENFORCEMENT TO REDUCE NOISE FROM TWO-STROKE ENGINES, MOPEDS AND SMALL OFF-ROAD ENGINES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING CHANGES TO STATUTES, RULES, AND OTHER GUIDANCE NEEDED TO HELP REDUCE NOISE FROM THESE SOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, noise pollution is a serious, prevalent and
2 increasing problem affecting quality of life in the state,
3 particularly in urban areas, but also in suburban and rural
4 areas; and

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6 WHEREAS, noise pollution impairs the peace and tranquility
7 that should be part of the beauty of the Hawaiian islands; and

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9 WHEREAS, citizens of Hawaii are entitled to a healthy and
10 peaceful environment and have the right to be free from noise
11 pollution that may be hazardous to their health or welfare; and

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13 WHEREAS, exposure to excessively loud and unabated noises
14 can result in physiological, psychological and economic damage;
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, excessive noise constitutes a public nuisance; and

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19 WHEREAS, efforts to protect this right have been codified
20 under chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and in Hawaii
21 administrative rules chapter 11-46; and

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23 WHEREAS, in addition, section 46-17, Hawaii Revised
24 Statutes, authorizes any county to adopt ordinances regulating
25 noise, among other things; and

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H.C.R. NO. 94

1 WHEREAS, existing regulatory measures are not effectively
2 enforced and do not adequately address noise pollution emitted
3 by excessively loud vehicles and small off-road engines such as
4 leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment; and

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6 WHEREAS, loud two-stroke engines such as internal
7 combustion engine mopeds are significant contributors that have
8 raised ongoing concerns in communities throughout the State; and

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10 WHEREAS, mopeds and other motor vehicles with after-market
11 modifications to engine or exhaust systems are often many times
12 louder than larger motorcycles that have greater engine
13 displacement and robust exhaust baffles; and

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15 WHEREAS, excessively loud vehicles and small off-road
16 engines such as leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment
17 are difficult to regulate because of the mobile and dispersed
18 nature of this equipment; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the department of health
23 should examine issues and barriers to enforcement to reduce
24 noise; and should submit a report to the legislature by December
25 31, 2022, with recommendations for changes to statutes, rules,
26 and other guidance needed to help reduce noise from these
27 sources, including possibly funding commercial rebates or
28 similar incentive funding to support the transition to quieter
29 operations by zero-emission mopeds and small off-road equipment;
30 and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
34 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Director of
35 Health, and Director of the City and County of Honolulu's
36 Department of Planning and Permitting.

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39 OFFERED BY: 
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