
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.

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 title 11, Chapter 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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27 WHEREAS, existing regulatory measures are not effectively
28 enforced and do not adequately address noise pollution emitted
29 by excessively loud vehicles and small off-road engines such as
30 leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment; and



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2 WHEREAS, loud two-stroke engines such as internal
3 combustion engine mopeds are significant contributors to noise
4 pollution that have raised ongoing concerns in communities
5 throughout the State; and

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

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

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
20 requested to examine issues and barriers to enforcement to
21 reduce noise from two-stroke engines, mopeds, and small off-road
22 engines; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
25 requested to consider the feasibility of funding commercial
26 rebates or similar incentive funding to support the transition
27 to quieter operations by zero-emission mopeds and small off-road
28 equipment; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
31 requested to submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
33 Legislature no later than December 31, 2022; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
37 and Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the
38 City and County of Honolulu.

