
HOUSE 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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27 WHEREAS, existing regulatory measures are not effectively
28 enforced and do not adequately address noise pollution emitted



1 by excessively loud vehicles and small off-road engines such as
2 leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment; and

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

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

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13 WHEREAS, small off-road engines, which are used primarily
14 in lawn and garden equipment, can also emit excessive noise; and

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

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

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

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40 OFFERED BY:



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