
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.

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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1 WHEREAS, loud two-stroke engines such as internal
2 combustion engine mopeds are significant contributors to noise
3 pollution that have raised ongoing concerns in communities
4 throughout the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, mopeds and other motor vehicles with after-market
7 modifications to engine or exhaust systems are often many times
8 louder than larger motorcycles that have greater engine
9 displacement and robust exhaust baffles; and
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11 WHEREAS, excessively loud vehicles and small off-road
12 engines such as leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment
13 are difficult to regulate because of the mobile and dispersed
14 nature of this equipment; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2022, that the Department of Health is requested to examine
19 issues and barriers to enforcement to reduce noise from two-
20 stroke engines, mopeds, and small off-road engines; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
23 requested to consider the feasibility of funding commercial
24 rebates or similar incentive funding to support the transition
25 to quieter operations by zero-emission mopeds and small off-road
26 equipment; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
29 requested to submit a report of its findings and
30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
31 Legislature no later than December 31, 2022; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Director
35 of the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and
36 County of Honolulu.
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