

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 4:05:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Robinson	Testifying for Specialty Equipment Market Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I write to express concerns with House Bill (HB) 586, which would revise Hawaii’s laws regarding the regulation of motor vehicle exhaust noise. SEMA agrees that the state’s existing law needs reform and recognizes that illegal street racing and vehicle modifications have spiked nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the underlying vehicle noise laws are insufficient and do not provide a fair standard on which to enforce. Penalties for violating the law should not be increased if the underlying laws are not similarly reformed.

Currently law prohibits an individual from modifying a vehicle’s exhaust system in such a manner that it causes the vehicle to emit more noise than when it was originally manufactured. This is problematic as it creates hundreds of exhaust noise standards on which police must enforce as there are hundreds of makes and models of cars and trucks on the road today, each emitting a different range of sound. For example, in their stock configurations, a Honda sedan may emit 70-db of muffler noise, while a Porsche 911 puts out 95-db. Similarly, that Honda’s owner could install an aftermarket muffler that raises its noise output to 80-db, rendering the vehicle illegal while still emitting less noise than other unmodified, legal vehicles on the road.

More problematic is that existing law fails to include a methodology for determining if a vehicle is indeed louder than its stock configuration. SEMA supports efforts to create an objective standard for measuring and enforcing exhaust noise laws. SEMA also respectfully requests that such a level be further defined as 95-db when tested under SAE International standard J1492. This SAE test procedure is conducted in a controlled environment using objective methodology. It is the only way to fairly measure a vehicle’s true exhaust noise and has been adopted by other states, such as California, Maine, and Montana.

Representing the \$51 billion specialty automotive industry, SEMA is a trade association made up of approximately 7,000 mostly small businesses nationwide, including 41 in Hawaii, that manufacture, market and sell specialty automotive aftermarket products, including restoration,

appearance, performance, comfort, convenience, and technology products for motor vehicles.

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at christianr@sema.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:39:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:10:29 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB587. Why are you all focused on this and not the real problems that face the citizen of this beautiful state? When I look down the list of state bills being considered its a list of smaller problems and nothing adressing the larger problems like affordable housing, affordable medical coverage/care, homelessness, quality jobs. If people want to modify their car let them, assuming it doesnt harm anyone else. This is government overreach! When the state focuses on stuff like this instead of the big problems it makes people who support you want to have you replaced and find someone who will deal with the real problems. Let people enjoy their cars!

Ryan Christopher

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:34:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Gonzalez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This seems like a poor attempt to get more money out of citizens and penalize auto enthusiasts. Many vehicles come with "noisy" exhaust from the factory. I do not see anything positive about this.

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:27:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Torin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unnecessary bill, we don't have much in Hawaii and majority of any custom car has a aftermarket or modified exhaust which any Karen can claim is "noisy". There is no rules or ways to measure what is noisy to one person and not to the next, there is also no decibel readers in place or at any safety check shops to determine decibel level of the noise, so it than becomes one persons "personal opinion" of noise, we have a lot more important factors to focus on in this day and age in Hawaii aside from taking away the freedoms of citezens, bills like this will cause crime to go up and the people who commit these crimes have no intention of paying these fines most of the times also no means to pay these fines we could do strongly with out this bill.

Something needs to be done about scrap yards paying drug addicts to remove peoples catylitic converters for cheap as they turn around and make large profits out of precious metals inside said converters. There's multiple people on the big island alone that fuel this issue and it's getting swept under the rug because large amounts of money are involved.

SB-586

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:39:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/9/2023 3:00:00 PM

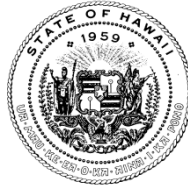
LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't do this. I am not in support of this at all. Please focus laws that help instead mahalo for your time

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097



February 9, 2023
3:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Teleconference

S.B. 586
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. 586, which specifies that a certificate of inspection shall be issued if a vehicle is not equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system. Requires rules regarding safety check inspections to ensure that a motorcycle, moped, or motor vehicle is not equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system. Suspends, revokes, or refuses renewal of a permit for an official inspection station upon a third or subsequent willful violation of any rule regarding inspecting a noisy muffler or exhaust system. Makes Violating the noisy muffler laws a petty misdemeanor. Includes repairing or installing a noisy muffler or exhaust system as a prohibited practice for motor vehicle repair regulations.

The DOT has received numerous calls and e-mails from residents impacted by the noisy aftermarket mufflers. We support any attempts to reduce the exhaust noise problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.