

JAN 19 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of sirens by
2 emergency vehicles can be necessary to alert other vehicles and
3 pedestrians that an emergency vehicle is exercising its
4 authority to disregard certain traffic laws, such as proceeding
5 through a red light or exceeding the posted speed limit. The
6 legislature further finds that some emergency response sectors
7 have determined that there should be flexibility to not engage
8 the siren in situations where it is unnecessary, such as
9 responding at night when the streets are empty of cars and
10 pedestrians. Further, the city and county of Honolulu has
11 expressed in its ordinances that the siren should be used "as
12 may be reasonably necessary". Despite this, some emergency
13 response sectors believe that the use of the siren is mandatory
14 in all circumstances. The legislature notes that the
15 unnecessary use of a siren contributes to noise pollution,
16 especially in heavily-congested residential areas.



S.B. NO. 346

Report Title:

Emergency Vehicles; Siren Use

Description:

Makes it discretionary for authorized emergency vehicles to use sirens when responding to an emergency or in other specified situations if the siren is not reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

