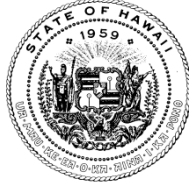


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 28, 2024

2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, CR 329 & Videoconference

S.B. 2350, S.D.2, H.D.1

RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports S.B. 2350, S.D.2, H.D.1** which establishes a separate prohibition on driving motor vehicles having noisy mufflers on public highways in high-density areas; authorizes police officers to conduct examinations and inspections of motor vehicle mufflers in high-density areas; establishes separate fines for mopeds having noisy exhaust pipes or mufflers that are driven in high-design areas; and defines "high-density areas".

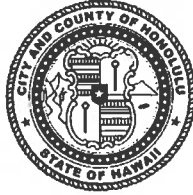
The HDOT's Traffic Noise Detection Camera pilot will assist with addressing excessive traffic noise from the vehicle using noisy mufflers. Roadside sound meters and cameras can provide evidence of vehicles emitting excessive noise. Once the preset noise threshold is triggered, the camera can capture video of the vehicle emitting the excessive noise. This will provide evidence for law enforcement to take action.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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KAHU MĀKA'I

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RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS
HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I

OUR REFERENCE JS-DGKC

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2350, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Noise Pollution

I am James Slayter, Major of District 6 (Waikīkī) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 2350, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, Relating to Noise Pollution. This bill would establish a separate prohibition on driving motor vehicles with noisy mufflers on public highways in high-density areas.

The HPD recognizes that loud vehicle noise is a common complaint from the community. While the Hawaii Revised Statutes does have sections that allow officers to enforce these types of violations, the additional language provided by this bill would be beneficial for law enforcement. The clear definitions and stricter penalties could deter would-be violators from installing after-market or altered equipment that create excessive noise.

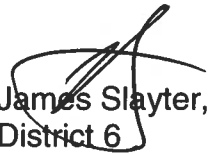
Rather than creating a new law, we recommend merging the proposed language in this bill with the existing law in Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 291-24.5, Motor Vehicle Muffler. The current law also applies to altering, selling, or installing a muffler that will noticeably increase the noise emitted by a motor vehicle above that emitted by the vehicle as equipped from the factory.

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members
March 28, 2024
Page 2


As such, the HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 2350, S.D. 2, H.D. 1,
Relating to Noise Pollution, with the above-described amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


James Slayter, Major
District 6

APPROVED:



Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

March 26, 2024

Senate Bill 2350, SD2, HD1

Support

House Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2350, a vehicle noise bill. At the February 13th meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the board voted in favor of support for this bill.

Following the rather eerie quiet of the Pandemic with very little noise generated in Waikiki we are back with the noise from everything from trash trucks to loud mufflers at all times of the day and night.

Currently the Honolulu Police Department is making a strong effort to ticket vehicles with aftermarket mufflers or no mufflers at all. These efforts are difficult to enforce with vehicles passing down streets, like Ala Wai Blvd and Kalakaua Ave, before a Police Vehicle is available and leaving the area.

I do have a concern that I see no actual noise limit in the bill and I know that the safety check stations and I don't think HPD has any decibel meters to measure how much noise is emitted at a certain revolution per minute on any vehicle.

Robert Finley
Chair

LATE

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 5:25:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Hilton	Windward Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Windward Coalition strongly supports passage of SB2350 SD2 HD1 for the reasons of:

- **Quality of life:** Stronger enforcement with fines for excessively loud mufflers would improve the peace and tranquility and improve the quality of life for residents.
- **Safety improvement:** Loud mufflers can distract drivers and pedestrians and mask other important sounds on the road, such as sirens, horns, and approaching vehicles. Enforcing quieter mufflers would make drivers more aware of their surroundings, **contributing to overall road safety.**
- **Legal compliance:** By penalizing drivers with non-compliant mufflers, authorities can ensure that vehicles adhere to noise regulations and discourage individuals from modifying their vehicles in ways that excessively increase noise levels. It also provides clearer guidelines for law enforcement to identify and penalize offenders.
- **Physical and psychological Health:** Especially of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and individuals with sensory sensitivities.
- **Noise pollution** has been associated with:
 - Hearing Damage.
 - Sleep Disturbance: vehicle noise, especially at night, can disrupt sleep patterns leading to sleep deprivation, increased stress, impaired cognitive function and weakened immune system.
 - Cardiovascular Effects: traffic noise has been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, and stroke.
 - Mental Health Impacts: noise can contribute to stress, anxiety, and depression.
 - Cognitive Impairment: Noise pollution can impair cognitive function, particularly in children and older adults.
- **Social and Behavioral Effects:** Noise can disrupt communication and social interaction, as well as interfere with outdoor recreational activities.
- **Adverse Birth Outcomes:** There is evidence to suggest that exposure to traffic noise during pregnancy may increase the risk of adverse birth outcomes such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and developmental delays in children.

Mahalo,

Eileen Hilton MD,

President Windward Coalition

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:18:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. I live in urban honolulu and the noise can be deafening. Unfortunately, you cannot lock the offenders in a room subjected to the same noise at high decibels for at least 15 minutes.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 3:26:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Waikiki, I experience muffler noise bouncing off buildings daily. I would appreciate measures to reduce this.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 4:51:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Mischer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being exposed to noise pollution from modified or defective mufflers is a daily nuisance for everyone, in particular citizens in the City of Honolulu. Modified muffler noise is unnecessary and should be eliminated. Mahalo

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 4:56:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stuart Novick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely anything at all that the legislature can do to lower the volume of our communities I support 100%. I live near Hobron Lane. Oh my goodness, the NOISE. Motorcycles so loud we can't hear the TV even with all doors and windows closed. Cars driving by, their volume so high we can't hear each other talk. And I know this bill doesn't address leaf blowers and other gas powered machines, like chain saws, jack hammers, etc.

Please pass this bill and then keep going. We should be focusing on the common good and spreading aloha, not the whims and desires of individuals and the refusal of entities to help lower the noise levels of our communities.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 5:04:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen T Hazam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB2350 SD2 HD1

I am subjected almost daily to excessive noise from motor vehicles. This is an issue that affects many , not just me. This is detrimental to public health, safety and privacy. It is time to act. Let this NOT die in committee.

Please SUPPORT SB2350 SD2 HD1

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 7:37:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriella Marzullo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I'd like to support this bill as loud vehicles have become a nuisance in my everyday life. A man on my street drives a truck with the loudest modifications I've ever heard. He leaves at 6:30am and not only wakes me up, but several of my neighbors, because of how loud his vehicle is when he starts the car. Not to mention it vibrates the ground! I live in a neighborhood with a lot of elderly people who are bothered by this noise and I know that we all would appreciate stronger measures to be made to cut down on noise pollution. Mahalo.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 9:40:52 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass this bill for saving sanity of voters!!!

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 11:01:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because we have enough noise in Honolulu without these annoying vehicles. Noise pollution is unnecessary and inconsiderate to all those around them. These attention seekers have no other way to get people to pay attention to them.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 2:18:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JC Sterbentz	Livable Honolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this important bill.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:47:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to BEG you to pass SB2350 SD2 HD1.

I don't understand why there would be opposition to it. This bill's purpose does not take away people's right to drive cars or trucks or ride motorcycles or scooters.

Its purpose is to strengthen existing laws - - laws that sadly some people refuse to follow despite how their modified or unmuffled vehicles disturb and even harm others.

Noise is scientifically proven to be unhealthful, and this type of noise is totally unnecessary. The passage of this bill will help to protect humans and animals.

A study done in Paris, France, found that a single unmuffled scooter crossing Paris at night can **wake up as many as 10,000 people**. That can easily be done in Waikiki with all its hotels, condos and apartment buildings, or by going just a few miles through town on the H-1.

Even HPD and the Department of Transportation support it!

Please help residents, their animals, and the state's visitors by passing SB2350 SD2 HD1. Mahalo!

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 7:58:38 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is a big difference between the level of sound that comes from a modified muffler or no muffler, and what was installed by the manufacturer.

The originally installed muffler is loud enough to have someone at a crosswalk or sidewalk or side of a road notice them in both urban and rural areas.

People who live in houses and apartment buildings, or work in commercial and office buildings, or who dine on restaurant lanais, ***do not ALSO*** have to hear approaching vehicles!!

Residents, animals, and visitors are **captive audiences to this harmful, disruptive, ear-splitting noise**. It disrupts the lives of those in the country as much as those in the urban core.

Please pass SB2350 SD2 HD1 because it is really a quality-of-life bill.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 8:15:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Loud mufflers and ridiculously loud backfiring are disturbing my peace and p..... me off. To be sure to hear tv programs I want to, I have bought noise canceling headphones so I can follow. Moreover, what purpose do these loud mufflers have for those buying and using them???

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 9:52:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Chu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I continue to support this proposed bill on noise. It is an increasing problem in the Ala Moana / Kakaako neighborhoods especially late at night when people are woken from sound sleep. Piikoi and Ala Moana Blvd seem to be some of the hot spots for this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 3:30:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 4:52:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. There are too many modified loud mopeds and street cars with loud mufflers. A car modified with a loud muffler parks at his work place right next to my apartment. And when he leaves late at night, the loud burst from his car startles me everytime he starts his engine.

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Bill SB2350 (noise pollution from vehicles)

To: CPC committee



Dear Committee members,

I am in FULL SUPPORT of Bill SB2350.

The noise in Waikiki from cars with loud mufflers, motorcycles, and modified mopeds is getting extremely worse each year! (Even despite there being many more electric vehicles now). Some of these cars sound like they have FIREWORKS coming out of their tailpipe. It's completely insane that a few individuals keep doing this and ruin everyone else's serenity in Waikiki.

I know the **argument from motorcyclists** is that loud mufflers makes the motorcyclists safer. That argument means that everyone should add modified mufflers to feel safe. What a horrible place that would be!! If people choose to ride motorcycles then they choose to take that risk, and should drive extra carefully. Not make everyone else's life miserable.

It seems that having loud mufflers has become more and more popular for some reason. I've been to Waikiki Neighborhood meetings, and this issue keeps getting brought up over and over, but despite the discussions, this type of noise seems to be getting worse each year.

I'm begging you to do more. BOTH day and night. It's even more absurd at night when the bars close between 1:30am and 4am.

I live in the Four Paddle condominium across from the Ritz Carlton. It seems that people rev their engines with loud mufflers purposely to try to wake people up. (Maybe they dislike tourists, but they are affecting residents as well).

I've installed sheets of plexiglass, and sound deadening curtains over my windows, and I sleep with earplugs. Besides getting woken up, it just makes me angry, which makes it even harder to get back to sleep. Others in our building complain also.

I've called the Waikiki Police several times on these occasions. I have also asked the manager of the Kelly O'Neil's bar on Lewers St. to try to do something or to talk and plead with their patrons.

This affects pets also. My small dog becomes extremely panicked when she hears those cars that sound like they have FIREWORKS coming out of their tailpipe. It only takes one or two of these vehicles to constantly go up and down Kuhio, and create aggravation and stress for everyone in earshot.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Aloha!

Mark Harpenau
2140 Kuhio Ave. #2202
Honolulu, HI 96815

markh@harp1.com
808-782-5054

LATE

SB-2350-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 8:43:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/28/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Cotter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retiree living in Waikiki there is no issue having greater impact on my health and wellbeing than the outrageously loud vehicles without mufflers that are allowed to essentially terrorize residents of our beautiful community. As a pedestrian I do not feel safe walking in Waikiki because of the noise and alarm such vehicles cause wherever they go. I have to drive outside of Waikiki twice each day because I cannot walk my dog in my own neighborhood because she is so traumatized by these vehicles. And in my apartment I must shut myself up by closing all my windows throughout the day and night because of the constant disturbance such vehicles create.

However, I believe there is an even more dangerous effect of such loud vehicles, motorcycles and scooters than simply the detrimental effects the noise has on the physical health of the resident and pets in our community. Noise like that created from such motorists contributes to a culture of contempt for law and order, and the peace and wellbeing of our community.

Such motorists send a selfish message of not caring for the wellbeing of one another that has profoundly detrimental effects on the entire cultural, social and even the political environment of our community. I support this bill and everything possible that can be done to reduce the physical and psychological anguish caused by these terribly loud engines!