THE SENATE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023 STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 928

JAN 2 0 2023

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES.

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

1	SECT	ION 1. The legislature finds that a review of
2	procedure	s for emergency response vehicles is necessary to
3	address i	ssues of recent concern to the public. Specifically,
4	issues ha	ve been raised, including:
5	(1)	Whether emergency response vehicle sirens are audible
6		by motorists;
7	(2)	Whether motorists can see emergency response vehicle
8		flashing lights;
9	(3)	Whether motorists give low priority to moving out of
10		the way of emergency response vehicles or even ignore
11		them;
12	(4)	Whether emergency response vehicle lights and sirens
13		are effective warning devices;
14	(5)	Whether traveling with lights and sirens decreases
15		emergency response vehicle response and transport
16		times, thereby saving lives;

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1	(6)	Whether the use of lights or sirens is necessary for
2		responses that are not time-sensitive;
3	(7)	Whether driving an emergency response vehicle using
4		lights and sirens is dangerous for the driver or the
5		<pre>public;</pre>
6	(8)	Whether time-critical patients or victims can be
7		identified to justify the use of lights and sirens at
8		the time of dispatch in response to a 911 call;
9	(9)	Whether there has ever been a lawsuit filed in the
10		United States or Canada based upon an emergency
11		response vehicle responding without using lights and
12		sirens when the use of the lights and sirens would
13		have been appropriate;
14	(10)	Whether the public expects the use of lights and
15		sirens for emergency response vehicles; and
16	(11)	Whether it is common for a caller to request the
17		services of an emergency response vehicle without the
18		use of lights or sirens.
19	In 1	994, the National Association of Emergency Medical
20	Services	Physicians, together with the National Association of



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1 State Emergency Medical Services Directors, published official 2 practice recommendations as follows: 3 (1)Emergency medical services medical directors should 4 participate directly in the development of policies 5 governing emergency medical vehicle response, patient 6 transport, and the use of warning lights and sirens; 7 (2) The use of lights and sirens during an emergency 8 response and during patient transport should be based 9 on standardized protocols that take into account 10 situational and patient problem assessments; 11 (3) Emergency medical services agencies should use an 12 emergency medical-dispatch priority reference system 13 that has been developed in conjunction with and 14 approved by the emergency medical services medical 15 director to determine which requests for pre-hospital 16 medical care require the use of warning lights and 17 sirens; 18 (4) Except for suspected life-threatening, time-critical 19 cases or cases involving multiple patients, response 20 by more than one emergency medical vehicle using

lights and sirens usually is unnecessary;

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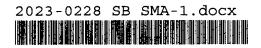
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1	(5)	The use of emergency warning lights and sirens should
2		be limited to emergency responses and emergency-
3		transport situations; and
4	(6)	Scientific studies evaluating the effectiveness of
5		warning lights and sirens under specific situations
6		should be conducted and validated.
7	The	purpose of this Act is to establish an emergency
8	response	vehicle noise task force to:
9	(1)	Evaluate the impact of sirens at night on communities
10		that surround facilities for emergency response
11		vehicles in urban and rural areas;
12	(2)	Evaluate the relative effectiveness of utilizing
13		lights alone compared to using lights and sirens at
14		night in enhancing the safety of first responders and
15		the public; and
16	(3)	Recommend rules on the appropriate use of lights and
17		sirens by emergency response vehicles for adoption by
18		the relevant agencies.
19	SECT	ION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20	amended b	y adding a new section to part XVIII to be
21	appropria	tely designated and to read as follows:



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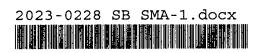
1	" <u>§32</u> :	1- Emergency response vehicle noise task force. (a)
2	There is e	established an emergency response vehicle noise task
3	force wit	hin the department of health for administrative
4	purposes,	as provided in section 26-35, to examine the use and
5	effective	ness of lights and sirens by emergency response
6	vehicles.	The task force shall:
7	(1)	Evaluate the impact of sirens at night on communities
8		that surround facilities for emergency response
9		vehicles in urban and rural areas;
10	(2)	Evaluate the relative effectiveness of utilizing
11		lights alone compared to using lights and sirens at
12		night in enhancing the safety of first responders,
13		patients, and the public; and
14	(3)	Recommend rules on the appropriate use of lights and
15		sirens by emergency response vehicles for adoption by
16		the relevant agencies.
17	<u>(b)</u>	The task force shall consist of eight members to be
18	appointed	in the manner and to serve for the terms provided in
19	section 2	6-34; provided that the members shall be:
20	(1)	The director of health or the director's designee, who
21		shall serve as chairperson;



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1	(2)	A representative of a level II trauma center;
2	(3)	A representative from the police department of one of
3		the four counties;
4	(4)	A representative from the state fire council;
5	(5)	A representative of the state emergency medical
6		services advisory committee;
7	(6)	A representative of emergency medical service
8		personnel from one of the four counties, to be
9		appointed from a list of three nominees provided by
10		the director of health;
11	(7)	A representative of the blind community, to be
12		appointed from a list of three nominees provided by
13		the director of health; and
14	(8)	A representative of the deaf community, to be
15		appointed from a list of three nominees provided by
16		the director of health.
17	(c)	Members shall not be compensated but shall be
18	reimburse	d for necessary expenses incurred, including travel
19	expenses,	in carrying out their duties. The department shall
20	provide a	ll necessary administrative, professional, technical,
21	and cleri	cal support required by the task force.



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1	(d) The task force shall meet at least biannually,
2	beginning in 2023.
3	(e) The task force shall submit a written report of its
4	findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed
5	state and county legislation, to the legislature and to the
6	council of each county, no later than forty days prior to the
7	convening of each regular session beginning with the regular
8	session of 2024."
9	SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
10	SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.
11	

INTRODUCED BY:

Kal Nhand



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#### Report Title:

Vehicle Noise; Emergency Response Vehicle Noise Task Force; Department of Health

#### Description:

Establishes an Emergency Response Vehicle Noise Task Force to determine the impact of emergency response vehicle sirens in terms of excessive noise, the effect on public safety, and the relative effectiveness of the use of emergency lights instead of the use of sirens at night.

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