

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB1418
RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 2/15/2023

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department provides the following comments on this measure
5 which amends Chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new part to regulate
6 excessive amplified noise. The A weighting scale (dBA) which we utilize in carrying out the
7 duties as stated in Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-46 is the nationally accepted
8 standard and is supported by health research. The Department currently regulates businesses,
9 during business hours which may emit excessive noise as a byproduct of their day to day
10 activities, which is the intent of Title 19, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 342F and Title
11 11, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-46. These types of sources are either fairly
12 constant in nature, stationary or restricted to a certain location and can be efficiently enforced by
13 the Department. This measure authorizes Department to grant written approval for noise that
14 would otherwise constitute a violation of this new part and to adopt rules to implement this
15 measure. The Department has concerns with respect to exactly what purpose this approval
16 process and rulemaking authority would serve if the purpose of this measure is to in fact
17 eliminate excessive amplified noise. Legislation such as this may be better suited and
18 implemented in Chapter 711-1101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Disorderly Conduct. Adding a
19 decibel limit to §711-1101 will allow the responding officer to quantify "unreasonable" noise,
20 leading to a definitive disorderly conduct violation. Furthermore, utilizing the dBC scale may be

1 difficult as current technology is unable to determine from which source the sound is originating.
2 Many sources could be contributing to the sound level readings in dBC for example, the total
3 sound could be originating from the amplified sound source, vehicles passing by, aircraft in the
4 sky, nearby conversations, mechanical equipment, etc. By using dBA, we are able to distinguish
5 the sources and can turn off other contributing sound sources to receive an accurate reading of
6 the equipment in question. The Department agrees with the intent of this bill in protecting our
7 public from excessive noise and welcomes the opportunity to train other agencies in the use of
8 sound level meters. We would like to continue the conversation to address noise issues and how
9 to effectively offer protection to the public.

10

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 1:01:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Henderson	Testifying for Citizens Against Noise	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the founder of Citizens Against Noise I support SB1418. **Amplified noise** is acceptable in Hawaii but only at the volume necessary for normal hearing. **Excess amplified noise** at should be unacceptable. SB1418 codifies this all important distinction.



February 13, 2023

Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Testimony in **opposition** to **SB 1418**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and health care industries. **UNITE HERE Local 5 is opposed to SB 1418.**

We have many concerns with this bill; some of the key issues include:

1. Many visitors come from places that do not have the vibrant night life and energy of Waikiki; part of the draw of Waikiki is its night life. Street performers provide a unique and unforgettable experience to visitors. In fact, a variety of people testified in defense of that Waikiki experience in response to Honolulu City Council Bill 43 (2021). To eliminate Waikiki street performance would be shortsighted.
2. There are many sources of noise in Waikiki, as it is the main resort-zoned area on the island of Oahu. The bill ignores the noise coming from restaurants, bars, nightclubs, concerts, shows, hotels, shops, and privately owned open spaces in Waikiki that can be heard from public sidewalks (and which often create noise much later than 7pm). This is not to say that the bill could be fixed by adding those categories – it wouldn't – but to point out that it would have the effect of targeting just those residents who don't own or lease commercial property in Waikiki who seek to use their right to free expression after an arbitrary time. Other sources of noise include motorcycles, mopeds, delivery trucks, modified cars, city buses, tour buses, garbage trucks, drunk revelers, and people talking, etc.
3. Because of the importance of Waikiki to the statewide economy, and because the particular problem the bill focuses on can potentially be resolved without creating punitive legislation, the state should study engineering/architectural solutions that could solve the problem and invest in them.
4. The first of the bill's two disparate definitions of "excessive amplified noise" (any amplified noise audible at a 30-foot distance) is too easy to violate and doesn't appear to serve public health concerns. A wide range of sounds could be considered "audible" at 30 feet.
5. The bill would make it a violation for any amplified sound to be 3 dB over the ambient sound. This acts as an unofficial third definition of "excessive amplified noise." Like the above, this would be extremely easy to violate – it's not clear that a person could even detect a sound difference of 3 dB, and it would be nearly impossible for anyone to regulate their own sound so as to comply with this section.

6. Presumably the bill would be enforced against tourists, unless the State intends to discriminate only against its own residents. The bill does not include funding to educate tourists about quiet hours in the middle of a resort center where they are vacationing. This is a problem.
7. As written, the bill also doesn't include funding to educate residents about these new limitations on their free expression. This is important for all residents, especially those who seek to ensure that the tourist industry benefits residents, including both residents who make a living through street performance and those who raise issues of importance to the public in public spaces.

For these and other concerns, we ask that you do not pass SB 1418.

Thank you for your consideration.

UNITE HERE Local 5

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 5:25:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I write as a private citizen though I am also the Vice Chair of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board. We will be meeting on Feb. 14 to take a formal position on this bill and I will appear in person at this hearing to further elaborate. I can tell you that I have been a Board member for over 20 years and I can hardly remember a meeting where someone in the community did not complain about noise. This bill targets a specifically annoying practice of amplified noise. Amplified noise from street performers reverberates off the high rise buildings and can be heard quite a distance away. It really disturbs some local residents .There are times when it sounds more like a pep rally at a football game than the streets of a tropical resort.

I am certain that the local residents of the community that we as Board members represent would be grateful for any assistance and relief the legislature can provide.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 4:27:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Finley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amplified music and other sound has been a major area of complaint in Waikiki for several years with residents and the visitor industry constantly having their evenings disturbed by the loud reproduced sounds in general from street performers along Kalakaua Avenue.

I feel a resident should be able to return home after a long work day and be able to open an lanai door for fresh Tradewinds without having amplified sound so loud that a normal conversation is impossible.

Some of our neighbors have resorted to expensive glass replacement and adding expensive air conditioning to block the noise.

Local businesses along Kalakaua Avenue are sometimes unable to talk to potential customers over the loud noise and many complaints are given to our Hotels over the noise that interferes with a guests ability to enjoy the comfort of their hotel room.

I have nothing against a street performer just the noise the amplifiers make that disrupt the neighborhood.

Mahalo,

Robert Finley

February 11, 2023

ATTN: Senate Health and Human Services Committee, February 15, 2023 Hearing

RE: Support of SB1418 Relating to Noise Pollution

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Committee members,

Waikiki residents are deeply grateful to Senator Moriwaki and all the other introducers of SB1418 for understanding the need to control amplified noise pollution that adversely affects the quality of life and health of residents and visitors alike.

The residents of Waikiki, the employees who work there, and the jetlagged visitors who vacation there, **should not be captive audiences** to ear-splitting noise blasting from amplifiers all evening long, every night of the year.

The entire Honolulu City Council heard our pleas for help on November 2, 2022. Attached please find the testimony that was submitted on the day the Council approved Bill 43.

Please read our individual testimonies about why we need you to approve SB1418 to control amplified noise pollution.

Mahalo,
Kim Jorgensen
Waikiki

Name: Denise Boisvert	Email: infordenise@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 02:28 PM
Name: Kim Jorgensen	Email: hawaiiicondo@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 02:47 PM
Name: Salvatore Anello	Email: ring23@aol.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:02 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Bill 43 (21) FD2. The noise and music coming from the street performers that are over 3 blocks away causes stress, anxiety and disruption of my sleep. I cannot even retire early if I am very tired because it wakes me up and then keeps me up. Instead of looking forward to a good night's sleep I start stressing over the anticipation of the noise that will happen later that evening.</p> <p>I am forced to hear full concerts of unnecessarily loud noise for hours. It never used to be this bad. Years ago, only a couple of the street performers used amplifiers or some electronics to blast music. Now, they all do, and it is like they are all trying to outdo each other's volume. How can this be allowed to continue every night, week after week, month after month?</p> <p>I understand how Waikiki is supported by tourism. But there needs to be some respect for those of us who live here and work here. I'm not complaining about very common urban noise. This is about the street performers with their amplifiers creating an unnecessary volume of noise that makes it seem like they are performing right in front of my building in the Apartment Precinct.</p>		
Name: Mike O'Dwyer	Email: bunsod4@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:08 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I'm testifying in FULL SUPPORT of Bill 43 (21) FD1. I've lived at the Governor Cleghorn on Kaiulani Avenue since 1972 and have seen many changes in Waikiki over the decades; some good, some very bad.</p> <p>One of the worst changes in the last several years has become very stressful and disruptive on a nightly basis. Now almost every performing act on Kalakaua Avenue produces deafening amplified music that I am forced to hear several streets away in Waikiki's Apartment Precinct.</p> <p>I miss watching the local street musicians who gently played Hawaiian music. It was fun to bring visiting friends and family to Kalakaua to see them but the sound level of the types of acts today makes me need to avoid Kalakaua.</p> <p>Please pass Bill 43 because the rights of residents trying to enjoy a peaceful evening at home without being a captive audience to noise several blocks away should be as important as a street performer's right to speech and expression. That equity will not take place until an allowable decibel level is put into law and enforced.</p> <p>Mahalo, Mike O'Dwyer</p>		
Name: Staci Kennedy	Email: thriftchick@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:10 PM
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Testimony:

I am writing again on behalf of my elderly mother and myself as her caregiver in support of Bill 43 (21) FD1. For decades we have lived several months each year in Waikiki. **Over the past year I have realized how disruptive the noise from the street performers on Kalakaua is to the sleep and well-being of the elderly.**

With age and diminished thought processes come sun downers symptoms. It is difficult for seniors to distinguish between real and imagined during evening and night hours. My mother needs to go to bed early, but is very often awakened by the street performer noise each evening. It always leaves her agitated and unable to fall back to sleep right away.

At this stage in her life, routine is vital. Interrupted sleep is not routine and scientifically not healthful. I'm sure that she is not the only one who is going through this, as there are many elderly people in our neighborhood.

The constant amplified noise in the evenings that blares for hours all the way over to our side of Waikiki also affects me, her caregiver. It makes me stressed and tired, and I worry that it will affect my ability to properly care for my mother.

Please take this into consideration when making your decision about Bill 43 (21) FD1 on behalf of the kupuna and their family/caregivers. Mahalo.

Name: Indira Braschi	Email: zuica22@aol.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:18 PM

Testimony:

Dear Council Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Please note my full support of Bill 43 (21) FD1, and gratitude to all councilmembers for your consideration to pass it.

The unnecessarily loud noise created by the amplifiers used by performers on Kalakaua Avenue is not only disruptive to all who must listen to it while sleeping, working or dining, but such noise is known to be dangerous to people's health.

As a resident in Waikiki's Apartment Precinct, I am forced to listen to it in the distance while trying to relax while at home in the evening. **Closing my doors and windows does not help much at all;** and it prevents my enjoying the trade winds until the performances stop.

There is nothing wrong with street performers entertaining tourists and locals, but the sounds they create in their acts should not be so loud that they are easily heard several streets away.

I understand how Waikiki is supported by tourism. But there needs to be some respect for those of us who live here and work here. I'm not complaining about very common urban noise. This is about the street performers with their amplifiers creating an unnecessary volume of noise that makes it seem like they are performing right in front of my building in the Apartment Precinct.

This is our home, our sanctuary. Please pass Bill 43 (21) FD1; the restrictions are definitely needed.

Respectfully,
Indira Braschi

Name: Leonhard Nicolai	Email: nicolai.hawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:21 PM

Testimony:

I partly own and manage a small apartment building on Koa Avenue located a block from Kalakaua Avenue.

The loud amplified music, singing, drumming, etc. coming from nearby street performers can be heard blocks away and has an

adverse affect on the quality of life for those of us who live in Waikiki and those visiting here.

I strongly support and hope you will pass Bill 43 (21) FD1. These regulations need to be established to insure that residents and our visitors can live and visit here in a peaceful environment.

Name: Sierra Laskowski	Email: sierralaskowski11@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:24 PM

Testimony:

I am submitting testimony in support of Bill 43 (21) FD1 because Waikiki residents have rights, too.

I chose to live in Waikiki when I moved here in January 2021 to work because of the ease of mass transit and proximity to the beach so I could learn to surf. I live in a residential building several streets away from Kalakaua Avenue that is filled with families, children, working people, and retired senior citizens.

A few months after my move when tourism started to come back, I was shocked that incredibly loud amplified music was allowed on sidewalks. How can such loud noise be legal when it is so unhealthy for all the people who work near it? And especially when it can be heard from blocks away and bother residents?

It makes it difficult for employees like me who must often be to work at 6 AM to get to sleep early. I am forced to stay awake or to get up again when they finally stop playing between 10 PM to 10:30 PM so that I may re-open my windows to have fresh air during the night. It is stressful and I am never refreshed in the morning.

The street performers need to understand that they are not being asked to stop playing or to stop using their amplifiers. We just need them, out of mutual respect, to lower the volume.

Please pass Bill 43, FD1.

Name: Cherlynn Thrasher	Email: sunnyhawaiiandays@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:27 PM

Testimony:

For the past 30 years I have spent several months a year in the Apartment Precinct of Waikiki and have done so because I love the diversity of the area, how close it is to the beach, mass transit, and being able to patronize the various restaurants within walking distance.

This past year has had the loudest street performers that I can remember in all those 30 years. It had been getting progressively disruptive over the last decade, but now that every performer has an unbelievably loud amplifier, it makes it uncomfortable to walk down Kalakaua or to dine at any of the restaurants with lanais or open window facing the street, especially in the evenings.

The volume of their amplifiers is not only deafening when walking by, but the noise is even heard all the way to my rental apartment between Kuhio and the Ala Wai. **It makes it difficult to watch television with my volume set at a reasonable level. I was warned by our resident manager to turn it down because it was too loud in the hallway.**

I support Bill 43 (21) FD1 because it will set decibel maximums for street performers which will be respectful of people living in the neighborhood around them.

Name: Bradley Patenaude	Email: braad@aol.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:34 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

Once again I am writing to support Bill 43 on Amplified Noise in Waikiki. The worst and most disruptive source of amplification is from street performers.

I live on Kaiulani Avenue just a few blocks from Kalakaua Avenue. Every evening we are subjected to street performers that set up on the corner of Kalakaua and Kaiulani with their amplifiers, and often times lighting etc...for a full concert. Some evenings the noise is so loud that it's near impossible to enjoy a quiet relaxing evening in our home. Couple it with the barrage of sirens and muscle cars that have become an ALL DAY NIGHTMARE in Waikiki, it's just really rather horrible.

We do not have air conditioning, nor do we want it, so our windows and sliders stay open 24/7. We do realize that part of Waikiki is a resort area, but it is also a residential neighborhood where people live, work and relax. This must be a consideration in passing this bill. Thank you for the consideration.

Bradley Patenaude
225 Kaiulani Aye, #1405
96815

Name: Terril Slusser	Email: terrilslusser@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 03:35 PM

Testimony:

This is testimony in FULL SUPPORT of Bill 43 (21) FD1.

Residents who live between Kuhio and the Ala Wai as I do should not be forced to hear the street performers' amplified music the way we do inside our homes for hours at a time in the evenings.

Bill 43 is not banning amplifiers so there should not be opposition to it from the street performers. The bill just addresses the need for decibel limits to be set starting at 7PM in the evenings to be fair to all people who live and work in Waikiki.

Name: Pamela Walker	Email: crystaltravel@earthlink.net	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 05:04 PM

Testimony:

Please pass Bill 43 (21) FD1. I have lived in the Governor Cleghorn on Kaiulani Avenue since 1993 and have always loved being part of the Waikiki community. Unfortunately, my residential community is being unfairly subjected to excessive volumes of unwanted noise caused by street performers using powerful amplifiers. No one can legitimately say that it is the residents' fault for living in Waikiki because we live in the residential area blocks away.

Kalakaua Avenue was not an earsplitting circus when I moved here. Over the years I enjoyed seeing the musicians playing Hawaiian music while some of their family members danced the hula. It really promoted a Hawaiian sense of place. They probably don't come to Kalakaua now because it is impossible for them to be heard with the other types of acts blasting so loudly. It is a loss for both tourists and residents.

One evening I was sitting in my living room (mauka of Kuhio) while on the phone with a friend and the performers on the corner of Kalakaua and Kaiulani Avenues started to play. The music from their 3 elevated loud speakers was so loud that my friend asked what all the racket was. We had to hang up because I couldn't hear her well from any of the rooms in my apartment.

It seems that the noise gets louder as the weeks go on and they often play all evening, even till well past 10:30 PM. I have visited the HPD Waikiki substation three times to discuss this matter, and was always told they can't do anything to help. Passing Bill 43 (21) FD1 will give them the ability to help.

Name: Margaret Murchie	Email: Margaret@margaretm.com	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 28, 2022 @ 05:54 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please support Bill 43, which will restrict amplified "entertainment" with its current painful, earsplitting noise level on almost every block with each "performer" attempting to outdo each other, cranking up their boom boxes. One cannot walk or hear themselves talk on the Waikiki sidewalks or restaurants with these chaotic competitions. There are also a couple of restaurants in the International Marketplace that are way louder than they should be and their security and police have been called many times. Why do we allow this? Ask the workers at the hotels along the way how many complaints they get. It also creates chaos with the predators using the distracted crowds gathered to easily pick pockets and riles up the mentally challenged homeless. We walk about three times a week, either early morning or evening, from the Elks to Lewers and it is a deterrance for sure. It is definitely not enjoyable nor is it necessary. I own a long term rental condo near Kapahulu and Kalakaua and have lost good tenants over the noise issue. Please do something to quell the cacophony. We should also do something about the loud motorcycles and other vehicles with modified mufflers racing around the neighborhood night and day. Mahalo for your consideration and attention.</p>		
Name: barbara barry	Email: barbaraabarry@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 29, 2022 @ 07:05 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>support Bill 43 (21) FD1.</p>		
Name: Board of Directors AOA Governor Cleghorn	Email: governorcleghornaoao@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 29, 2022 @ 09:07 AM
Name: Jim Cosgrove	Email: jhcogrove@juno.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 29, 2022 @ 01:45 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear City Councilmembers:</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 43 (21) FD1. Waikiki is divided into two distinct sections, the Resort Area makai of Kuhio, and the Apartment Precinct mauka of Kuhio.</p> <p>City dwellers understand that normal sounds like traffic and sirens go with the territory. The unregulated, highly-amplified music that can be heard from blocks away that comes from what tourists and residents alike have called the ear-splitting circus on Kalakaua is not normal in any city on a nightly basis.</p> <p>The unmitigated noise that continues for hours in the evenings disturbs residents, children and adults, who live several streets away in the quieter residential part of Waikiki, but are forced to listen to it all evening long after long days at work or school.</p> <p>We respect the rights of street performers, but Bill 43 is obviously needed so the rights of residents to not be forced to hear the sounds as loudly as we do now will also be acknowledged and enforced.</p> <p>This bill is not banning the performers or their use of amplifiers; it is just a matter of lowering the volume and limiting the hours of the currently uncontrolled high-decibel levels.</p> <p>Please pass Bill 43 (21) FD1.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jim Cosgrove 225 Kaiulani Ave</p>		

Name: Cynthia Vanaria	Email: cmvana@aol.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 05:14 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Honolulu City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I reside in the Governor Cleghorn on Kaiulani Ave in Waikiki. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 43, and I implore you to pass this bill because something must be done about the unacceptably loud noise produced by the street performers on Kalakaua Ave.</p> <p>The performers are fun and clever tourist attractions, but the level of sound they produce makes them IMPOSSIBLE for me to enjoy. It is even unbearable when driving down Kalakaua with the car windows closed. I am now avoiding many of the restaurants on Kalakaua with outside seating.</p> <p>The amplified noise is loud enough to be a constant hours-long nightly disturbance, even for those of us who are residents MAUKA of Kuhio. I cannot begin to fathom how disturbing it must be for jetlagged tourists in any of the hotels on Kalakaua.</p> <p>Although I have no objection to the entertainment itself, it needs to be understood that we are truly a mixed neighborhood and the entertainers are not being considerate with their noise level. I hope that the bill will pass into law so the current unacceptable situation will be fairly corrected with mutual respect on BOTH sides.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration to pass Bill 43. Cynthia Vanaria</p>		
Name: Rita Onorio	Email: rita.onorio@gmx.de	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 01:22 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am a graduate student at HPU who lives on Kaiulani Avenue between Kuhio Avenue and Ala Wai Blvd. The amplified noise on Kalakaua Avenue that can be heard in my apartment makes it difficult to use the time in the evening to study. I also get up early in the morning to attend lectures and I often have to wait until the street performers stop playing before I can go to sleep.</p> <p>I support Bill 43 that would have the volume lowered starting at 7:00 PM.</p>		
Name: Kristina Holzapfl	Email: kristinaholzapfl@ymail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 01:25 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Honolulu City Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am in full support of Bill 43, FD1. The amplified music on Kalakaua Avenue should not be so loud that it can be heard in Waikiki's residential apartment district where people can even hear it in their living rooms. It disturbs the concentration I need for my studies. Please pass the bill.</p> <p>Mahalo for your consideration.</p>		
Name: Julia Schmatz	Email: juliaschmatz@ymail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 01:26 PM
<p>Testimony:</p>		

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 43 to lower the volume of amplified noise on sidewalks in Waikiki so **people may relax or study without being disturbed for hours every evening**. As a student I will really appreciate the change in volume.

Name: Jaime Smedes	Email: jaime.smedes@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 03:31 PM

Testimony:
The noise level in Waikiki and around Oahu is unfortunate and negatively impacts the mental health of more residents than we can understand. I urge the city and law enforcement to hold people accountable for creating unnecessary noise in the form of excessive vehicle exhaust systems both in cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

Name: Julia Rivera	Email: rivera30julia@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 30, 2022 @ 06:48 PM

Testimony:
We need limit on noise so people living here can sleep and work without interruption

Name: John Bickel	Email: jbickel15@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 31, 2022 @ 07:53 AM

Testimony:
I have lived in Waikiki on Ala Wai Blvd for almost twenty years. Since then the unit next to mine has been bought and sold a number of times. Each time someone moves in thinking Waikiki is a fun place to live. In about two years they tire of the noise and move out. So many of us suffer from sleep deprivation due vehicle noise and people screaming at all hours. More needs to be done. This bill is a good step.

Name: Rob Coutts	Email: r.coutts@comcast.net	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 31, 2022 @ 08:43 AM

Testimony:
Please pass this legislation - Waikiki does not need carnival barkers and "entertainers" clogging the streets and generating so much noise.
Nobody wants to hear someone's amplified yelling, singing, and music especially in the evenings.
It's like having the idiot with the boombox in their car loudly playing "music" park in front of your house.
It's annoying and needs to stop.

Name: Carlino Giampolo	Email: carlinog@hotmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 08:04 AM

Testimony:
I strongly support the passage of Bill 43.
No one should have the right to disrupt the peace and tranquility, as well as adversely impact the health and well-being of residents, with their loud and excessive noises. This includes street performers who are not local to the neighborhood where they perform.
Bill 43 respects the dignity of Waikiki neighborhood residents.

Please pass Bill 43 for final approval by the mayor.

Name: Michael Mischer	Email: michaelmischer@me.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 10:55 AM

Testimony:
I am in favor of Bill 043.
The health of citizens living in Waikiki is of most importance.

Name: Sharon Moriwaki	Email: senmoriwaki@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 02:31 PM

Name: Adrian Tam	Email: reptam@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 1, 2022 @ 02:32 PM

Name: Alessandra Gallian	Email: alessa.gallian@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 08:25 AM

Testimony:
I live on 225 Kaiulani Avenue. My windows go out ocean side and I can hear the music very clearly as if it were played in my living room. I don't want to have to listen to a full blown concert every night. There is especially one band that has two large speakers set up with a stage. This is taking it too far. We have asked them kindly many times to turn it down but they don't care. This is not Aloha. Do they even have a license to have all that set up? They are being very disrespectful to our residents in this community. **This is not Pono.**
Also the sound on the corner they are set up echoes. It is really bothersome.

Name: Winston Welch	Email: winston@outdoorcircle.org	Zip: 96815
Representing: The Outdoor Circle	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 09:44 AM

Testimony:
I want to provide oral testimony on this and other items on the agenda. Please send login instructions.

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Supporters of Bill 43 FD2 do not want to revoke the rights of people to express themselves on public sidewalks. Bill 43 would not ban amplifiers. It is simply a compromise that will set limits on when and how loudly their amplified sounds may be.

I live mauka of Kuhio, 3 ½ streets away from most amplifiers, but on many nights **it is like watching TV with the radio on in the same room, and with all windows closed!**

Waikiki has been a gathering place for friends and families for far longer than the invention of portable amplifiers. Now, when friends and families gather and hang out, they must close their windows. **Hotel guests and residents are a captive audience of decibels that could fill Aloha Stadium!**

Most visitors watch a street performance for a few minutes, or a couple songs, and move along to the next ones, then go somewhere else. The families in my building must listen nonstop for hours all evening long.

Would such excessively loud noise going up into the night air and heard for blocks be tolerated in other commercial or resort areas on the island?

A visitor from Florida even wrote to the Star Advertiser in September last year that they had to bring the lanai table and chairs inside their hotel room because of the **earsplitting circus**. She wrote that she knew about Hawaii's struggle with overtourism and wondered if it was a strategy to keep people from returning to Waikiki hotels!!

The residents in the Apartment Precinct understand city noises; but extremely loud nonstop amplified noise all evening long is not normal and definitely not healthful.

Please approve Bill 43 FD2. It is a fair compromise for people to live, visit and work together - and to have mutual respect for each other.

Thank you for understanding that both sides have rights.








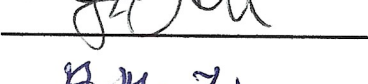

Denise Boisvert

ATTN: Transportation, Sustainability, & Health Committee, Honolulu City Council
 RE: Support of Bill 43 regarding Amplified Noise in Waikiki

We, the undersigned, residents of Waikiki are in FULL SUPPORT of Bill 43 for the following reasons:

- While we are not at all against street performers, we have the right to not be forced to listen to the noise produced by their performances
- The street performer noise can be heard in the Apartment Precinct mauka of Kuhio that is several streets away
- Our neighborhood has many families with babies and school age children, and adults of all ages whose health could be adversely affected by intrusive noise and lack of sleep
- The amplified noise forces us to close our windows and prevents us from breathing fresh air and can still be heard through our windows
- As residents in Waikiki, we understand that ambulance, siren, and traffic noise come with the territory, but amplified noise is voluntary and the decibel level needs to be controlled to be fair to everyone

Please pass Bill 43.

Name (print)	Signature	Street Address
COURTNEY David		218 Kaiulani Ave #2
Anna Rhodan		218 Kaiulani Ave #19 Hon, HI 96815
Deborah Bokala		424 Waiwai St #53 #815 HONOLULU
Vu Dinh		218 Kaiulani Ave #21
Lisa Somsan		2442 TUSITALA ST
Einstein Romero		222 Kaiulani Ave #105
James Palakos		2423 Cleghorn St
Leigh Johnson		2415 Alahai #1405
Arpine Martirosian		2452 Tusitala St. #73









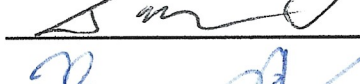
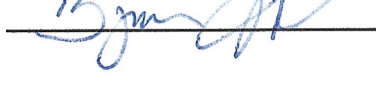
Residents of the Governor Cleghorn
225 Ka'iulani Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

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Name (print)	Signature	Date	Apt #
Andre Souza		08/12	301
SERAFINA SPARRELL		8/12/22	1203
Lisa Sparrell		8/12/22	1203
BRENCE CYNKEL		8/12/22	205
TIFFANY TORRE		8/12/22	705
JOSH TERESCO		8/12/22	705
Julia Rivera		8/12/22	703
Camilo Mojica		8/13/22	904
Janara Abu Hamour		8/17	1602
Bryan Mosley		8/17	1505


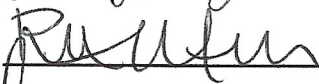






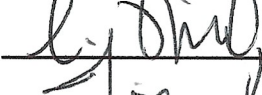
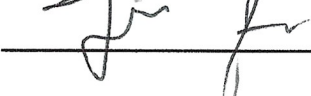
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Name (print)	Signature	Date	Apt #
Dave I Hori		8-12-22	403
Rita McFarland		8-12-22	804
Johan Morala		8-12-22	804
Terril Swuser		8-12-22	405
Michelle Bertoin		8-12-22	1606
Peter Galavane		8-12-22	"
Jerry Custals		8-12-22	PH 5
Kyle Vidal		8-12-2022	701
ERIC VIDAL		8-12-2022	701
Jiro Ku		8-12-2022	408







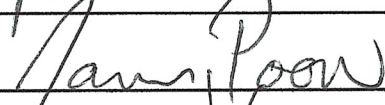



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Honolulu, HI 96815

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Name (print)	Signature	Date	Apt #
Darren Blair		08-11-22	303
Tom Elvrom		08/11/22	PH6
Alessandra Gallian		08-11-22	703
Claire Carlton		8/11/22	904
Mohamed El Gobry		8/11/2022	701
Vy Le		8/11/2022	802
James Poou		8/11/2022	902
Gracie Knoth		8/11/22	903
FRANESCA BENNETT		8/12/22	Apt 505
RJ BARROGA		8/12/22	306

Residents of the Governor Cleghorn
225 Ka'iulani Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

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Please pass Bill 43.

Name (print)	Signature	Date	Apt #
<u>Luya Xu</u>	<u>Luya Xu</u>	<u>8/27/22</u>	<u>1001</u>
<u>William Albratton</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>8/27/2022</u>	<u>304</u>
<u>ADISAK WONGUDERWAN</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>8/29/22</u>	<u>702</u>
<u>Kelis Kaleopa'a</u>	<u>Kelis K.</u>	<u>9/12/22</u>	<u>1401</u>
<u>Peter Horwitz</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>9/2/22</u>	<u>PH 4</u>
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City Council Hearing November, 2022

Dear Chair Waters and members of the City Council,

I FULLY SUPPORT Bill 43 (21), FD2.

I am an amateur musician and songwriter so I respect those who showcase their talents on sidewalks - - but, why do most of the street performers on Kalakaua need **loudspeakers amped up so high for an audience that is ONLY 5 FEET AWAY and can be heard MANY streets away?**

During the spring and summer of 2021, my wife and I individually reached out to a particularly loud band with 3 elevated loud speakers to try to have them understand their affect on our neighborhood several streets away. We suggested several ways to have a win-win situation:

- to please simply lower their volume, *but that never happened*
- to please move to a different part of Kalakaua so that the sound would not go up Kaiulani Ave, *but they wouldn't do that*
- to please place their loudspeakers on the ground instead of several feet high on poles...*nope...*
- to please turn the direction of the loudspeakers to project parallel to Kalakaua instead of toward the Apartment Precinct; *again, they couldn't care less about our residential neighborhood*

Each suggestion was met with a defensive, "We know our rights!!!" even though their rights to freedom of speech and expression were NEVER in question in the first place. It was simply residents begging for two-way understanding and human compassion.

We are grateful to Council Chair Waters for introducing Bill 43 so rights will run both ways and be protected by law.

It will not only benefit residents who live streets away in the Apartment Precinct, but also shop employees, restaurant and hotel workers, and jetlagged tourists. See the attached Letter to the Editor from a visitor.

Sincerely,
Mr. Kim Jorgensen

Letters: Culturally appropriate tourism welcomed; Restaurants need to help defeat coronavirus; No justice in releasing Reagan's would-be killer

Today • Updated 7:17 pm

Hooray for the new tourism plan so well summarized in Jayna Omaye's article, ["Culture and tourism"](#) ([Star-Advertiser, Sept. 26](#)). The new plan will attract a higher caliber of visitors by culturally appropriate and sensitive marketing before they arrive.

Once they are here, the new plan will better manage tourists through overdue best practices such as reservations, curated and authentic experiences, redistribution of excess demand, a tourism fee and better enforcement at hot spots.

With this plan, our tourism industry can be profitable again while our island paradise will be protected for kamaaina to enjoy. A special kudo should go to the Hawaii Tourism Authority for asking the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association for advice before deciding everything.

Maybe that kind of strategic, long-range thinking is what we should expect from our very first Native Hawaiian in the HTA driver's seat.

Jay Henderson

Ala Moana

Noisy Kalakaua Avenue mars visitor experience

As we concluded our nine-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Waikiki, we were forced to wonder if all the hotels within earshot of Kalakaua Avenue are in collusion by not warning prospective visitors on their websites that the main street in paradise is really an earsplitting circus.

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Email:

We were never able to relax on our balcony in the evenings because of the cacophony of noise from amplified electric guitars, singing and deafening music, all along the sidewalk of Kalakaua Avenue. In fact, we brought the balcony table and chairs into our room on the 16th floor in order to have a seated conversation without shouting to hear each other.

Sleeping was yet another challenge. We are visiting from Florida, meaning a time difference of six hours. Recovering from our long flight to Hawaii never happened because of waking repeatedly to the sound of street performers every night.

We are aware of Hawaii's struggle with overtourism. Maybe this is a strategy to keep people from returning to Waikiki hotels?

Denise Landay

St. Petersburg, Fla.

Restaurants need to help defeat coronavirus

Your editorial, [“Don't falter in pandemic fight” \(Star-Advertiser, Our View, Sept. 26\)](#), reminded me of the Kailua restaurant owner whose business was shuttered for a single night recently because he chose to not check diners' vaccine cards.

This person then went on social media to publicly berate the customer who notified the Honolulu Liquor Commission. He abdicated any and all responsibility and accountability for choosing to break the law, potentially endangering all who dined at this restaurant.

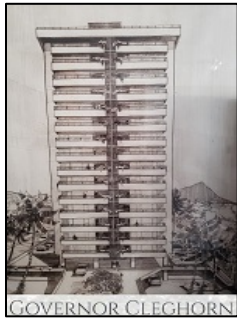
No one is above the law. Wearing a mask and pulling out a vaccine card to enter a restaurant, theater or other place of business is not the way we would like to live out our days, but choices and actions we take today have consequences that affect our future.

We need “good public participation.” We must work together to defeat COVID-19!

Don't people get this simple concept?

Jill Thach

Kailua



Governor Cleghorn

225 Kaiulani Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 923-4816
GovernorCleghornAOAO@gmail.com

RE: Honolulu City Council Meeting, November 2, 2022

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

The Association of Apartment Owners of Governor Cleghorn strongly supports Bill 43 (21) FD1.

Attached is a letter dated May 18, 2021, from the former President of our Board of Directors to Senator Moriwaki, Representative Tam, Council Chair Waters, Mayor Blangiardi, Rick Egged of the Waikiki Improvement Association, and Bob Finley, Chair of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, asking for help to lower the volume of the amplifiers on Kalakaua Avenue that greatly disturbs residents in our building several streets away, mauka of Kuhio, for hours in the evening.

The sound levels and numbers of amplifiers have increased since we wrote that letter.

We are grateful to Chair Waters for understanding the need for a decibel limit on amplified noise during the evening and night hours, and we hope that all members of the City Council will understand and approve Bill 43 (21) FD1.

Mahalo,

AOAO Governor Cleghorn Board of Directors

Attachment

Stan Michaels
Board President
AOAO Governor Cleghorn
225 Ka'iulani Ave #602
Honolulu, HI 96815

May 18, 2021

Dear Governor Ige, Senator Moriwaki, Representative Tam, Mayor Blangiardi, City Council Chair Waters, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association) and Bob Finley (Waikiki Neighborhood Board):

Residents in our Governor Cleghorn building located on Ka'iulani Ave between Kūhiō and Ala Wai Blvd have been subjected to highly amplified music from several street performers a few blocks away on Kalākaua Ave on almost a nightly basis for the past several weeks; most particularly Thursday through Sunday nights.

This was a problem before the pandemic, and we would like to address this now before even more street performers descend upon Kalākaua with their amplifiers as tourism returns. We do not believe that amplified music would be tolerated in any other commercial zone on the island, so why is it allowed in Waikiki? We ask that if there is currently no law against such amplification, that one be enacted. If there is a law, then we need it to be enforced because calls to HPD have not been effective.

While we have no objection to street performers or their freedom of speech and expression, the amplification of it has become a noise nuisance to us as residents trying to enjoy an evening at home in Waikiki's residential Apartment Precinct. Many residents in our building are forced to close all their windows to try to minimize the amplified sound in the distance. It is not a matter of whether or not the sound in the distance fails a decibel reading test from our lanais, but a quality of life issue and a matter of common courtesy and respect for residents and tourists alike.

Our building's residents are not alone. The nonstop noise on the sidewalks for several hours each evening would also be a nuisance to employees and jetlagged tourists at the Moana Surfrider, Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort, and Princess Ka'iulani hotels, as well as to patrons and employees of the many shops and restaurants along Kalākaua.

We ask the Waikiki Neighborhood Board and the Waikiki Improvement Association to support us in asking our legislators to work together to quickly curtail this unnecessary source of noise nuisance. We thank everyone for your kind consideration.

Sincerely and on behalf of our entire Board and 90+ owners,



Stan Michaels
AOAO Governor Cleghorn Board President
empire41@hawaii.rr.com

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 1:28:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Salvatore Anello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1418. The amplified noise coming into my home at 225 Kaiulani Ave, all the way from Kalakua Ave, created by street performers, is invasive and disruptive to my peace. It forces me to close all of my doors and windows and turn the Air Conditioner on. At a time when electricity is the most expensive it's ever been, and we are asked to conserve that electricity to not overload the system and for the good of the environment. Even doing that I can still hear the noise. I know it sounds hard to believe but the noise has a way of bouncing off of the buildings that makes it sound like they are right outside my lanai.

Please pass this. Mahalo!

ATTN: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Support of HB1302 Relating to Noise Pollution

DATE: February 15, 2023 Hearing

Aloha,

The Health and Human Services is the perfect committee to understand the need for this bill.

Honolulu is not the only city struggling with excessive, egregious, rude and unnecessary noise pollution. Attached please find an informative report on how Paris, France, is using technology to deal with excessive noise.

Excessive, egregious, rude and unnecessary noise in Waikiki is not limited to modified mufflers and music-booming cars that shake our doors and windows, but it also includes the blasting amplifiers on public sidewalks.

Noise detection cameras and decibel readers are needed in Hawaii, too! The article rightly reports that noise pollution is not just a quality-of-life issue, **it is also a health issue.**

Please support this bill and by doing so, the health and well-being of Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Denise
Denise Boisvert
225 Kaiulani Ave #1604
Honolulu, HI 96815



Motorcyclists in Paris are among the offenders targeted in the city's new campaign against noise pollution. *Photographer: Christophe Archambault/AFP via Getty Images*

CityLab | Environment

Europe's Noise Capital Tries to Turn Down the Volume

To combat the ill effects of urban noise pollution, Paris is deploying automated sensors and cracking down on the loudest vehicles.

By Peter Yeung

April 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM HST

By mid-morning, Rue d'Avron is a cacophony. The clank of metal rings out from scaffolding works; greengrocers yell and gesture as crates of deliveries arrive; and streams of chattering commuters pour out of the metro.

But the loudest racket comes from columns of fast-moving traffic lining both sides of the street, which runs from the infamous ring road surrounding Paris known as the *périphérique* and into the city center: the two-note sirens of police cars, the diesel rumble of buses and, worst of all, the high-pitched wail of motor scooters that speed by every few seconds.

“It’s hell over here,” says Dominique Léchenet, 55, a longtime resident. “There’s cars, motorbikes, a metro station, and a big road junction. I can’t stand the noise. It’s unbearable.”

The complaints of those living on Rue d'Avron – considered one of the noisiest roads in one of Europe’s loudest cities – haven’t fallen on deaf ears: In February, municipal authorities installed a device known as sound radar – the first ever in Paris – on a lamppost along the thoroughfare in the city’s eastern 20th arrondissement to detect the loudest vehicles. A second was added in the northwestern 17th arrondissement soon after.



A sound radar device in Paris combines microphones and cameras to detect noise offenders. *Photographer: Clement Dorval/Ville de Paris*

The so-called “medusa” devices, named for their resemblance to a jellyfish (or “méduse” in French), were developed by the nonprofit Bruitparif to identify drivers and motorcycle riders who are flouting the city’s noise regulations. Equipped with multidirectional cameras and a dangling battery of eight microphones, the sensors can hone in on sources of extreme noise and photograph the license plates of offenders. In 2023, the city will begin fining drivers 135 euros if their vehicles break set noise levels.

Motorcycles and scooters – often with their exhaust systems illegally modified to boost noise and power – are a particular problem in Paris, according to Franck-Olivier Torro, spokesperson for campaign group [Ras Le Scoot](#) (or “Enough with the Scooter”).

“The noise can be ear-splitting,” says Torro, citing research by Bruitparif that found that a single unmuffled scooter crossing Paris at night can wake as many as 10,000 people.

But the sound radars, which were also installed in [six other sites](#) across the country, including Nice and Toulouse, form part of a wider national campaign against excessive noise, which officials say is a major overlooked public health issue, not merely a nuisance. France’s [mobility orientation law](#), which was passed in December 2019, defined noise as a form of “pollution” for the first time.

The wide spectrum of urban noise, and its decidedly unequal effects on city dwellers, attracted [fresh attention](#) with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the shift toward working remotely it triggered. In Vancouver, for example, complaints about residential and construction noise [more than doubled](#) in the early weeks of the pandemic. But whether the culprits are [shrieking leaf blowers](#), [idling trucks](#) or [thumping car stereos](#), enforcement of excessive noise complaints tends to be spotty and ineffective. The advent of automated sensor technologies like Paris’ sound radar program could change that, offering hope that cities can develop new remedies for an age-old urban complaint.

[Read More: Automating the war on noise pollution](#)



The “périphérique” highway is a prime contributor to the Paris noise map. *Photo: Peter Yeung/Bloomberg CityLab*

Paris is something of a hotspot both for noise pollution and for municipal efforts to control it. European Environment Agency [data](#) shows the French capital is one of Europe’s noisiest cities, with more than 5.5 million in the Paris region exposed to road traffic noise at 55 decibels or higher – which the [World Health Organization](#) defines as the threshold for cardiovascular disorders and high blood pressure – compared with 2.6 million people in London and 1.7 million people in Rome.

On a national level, the ill effects of noise pollution in France, which include the loss of productivity caused by disturbed sleep, costs up to 147 billion euros each year, according to [research](#) by France’s National Noise Council (CNB) and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME). Some 25 million French residents said that noise impacted their lives; 432,000 said they were taking tranquilizers to cope with it.

“Noise makes people ill,” says Dan Lert, deputy mayor for Paris. “It rots the life of Parisians. That’s why we decided to act.”

Lert currently heads the city’s Plan Bruit, or Noise Plan, which is aimed at mitigating the din. During its first Noise Plan, which ran from 2015 to 2020, Paris introduced a number of measures as part of its war on noise: installing sound barriers along half the length of the périphérique, increasing roadside noise checks, testing innovative low-noise asphalt and establishing rules that state new housing must have at least one façade “not exposed to noise.”

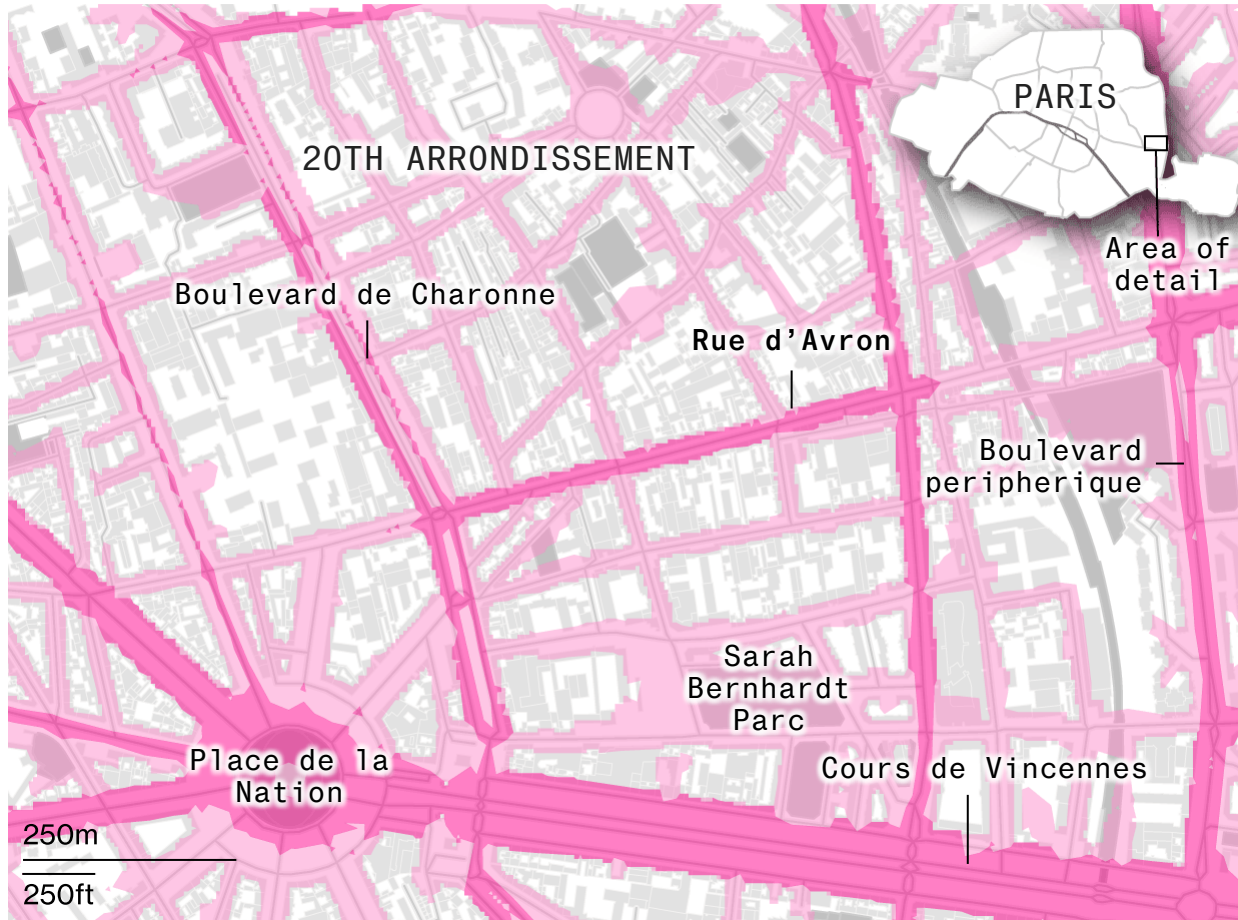
The effort to quiet Paris complements the wider campaign to make Paris greener, cleaner and less car-dependent, which include a series of vehicle restrictions in the city center, crackdowns on the most polluting vehicles, and an ambitious expansion of cycling networks. Those changes have cut the city’s average noise level by two decibels and reduced the number of people living in a noisy environment (using the European “Lden” measurement of a 24-hour average greater than 68 dB) from 231,000 in 2015 to 100,994 in 2021.

It Might Get Loud

A sound map of Paris’ 20th arrondissement shows traffic noise along major arteries

Average daily noise level (Lden)

- Over 53db (WHO threshold)
- Over 68db (European threshold)



Source: Bruitparif, Apur

Note: Noise map is for road traffic only

The second Noise Plan aims to turn down the volume by a further 37% between 2021 and 2026, targeting both “environmental noise” caused by transport and industry and “neighborhood noise” related to social activities. As well as the sound radars, the speed limit in most of the city has been cut from 50 kilometers per hour to 30 km/h. Additionally, charges for motorbike parking – currently free – will soon be introduced and restrictions will be tightened on building sites, deliveries and noisy neighbors. Even the city’s police have been asked to turn down their sirens at night.

But these noise-canceling efforts have also drawn some resistance – especially from motorcycle owners, who staged raucous mass protest rides through Paris in 2021 to protest new parking charges, speed limits and other measures.



Motorcyclists ride along the périphérique around Paris in April 2021 as they stage a protest against new parking regulations for motorcycles. *Photographer: Alain Jocard/AFP via Getty Images*

Authorities are responding to a growing body of research that shows noise pollution is a not-so-silent killer. Noise is the second biggest environmental factor causing health problems after only air pollution, according to a 2018 report by the WHO, and a UN report in February declared urban noise pollution one of the world’s “top emerging environmental threats.” A study in 2019 by the Paris

regional health agency and Bruitparif found noise was cutting the life expectancy of Parisians by 10.7 months.

“For a long time, noise was seen more as a quality of life issue, but not a health risk,” says Fanny Mietlicki, the director of Bruitparif. “But the reality is that there are massive health consequences, and more and more research is proving this.”

Recent findings are further amplifying concerns: A 15-year analysis in Switzerland published in January found transport noise is a major contributor to cardiovascular deaths and had “effects starting below current [WHO] guideline limits.” Beyond the more obvious threats, noise has the potential to impact the inner workings of gene networks and gut microbiota, according to a 2021 study. And researchers in Madrid even found that noise is “an important environmental variable ... to the incidence and severity of COVID-19.”

Their conclusions are unanimous: More needs to be done to fight noise. Under the European Union’s 2002 Environmental Noise Directive, cities with over 100,000 inhabitants must publish a noise map every five years.

“Do you move a school and a hospital away from the noise, or simply move the cars?”

But according to David Rojas-Rueda, a professor at Colorado State University, that data must be acted on. “Data is crucial,” says Rojas-Rueda, who is currently leading a year-long project to produce a noise map of Colorado. “If you don’t measure things, you don’t know what is happening. But once you have that, you have to use it.”

To combat noise, cities have opted for a range of reactionary or regulatory responses. New York City, for example, has limited the time of day when construction work can be done; Dutch cities are focusing on “acoustic insulation” of homes. But Rojas-Rueda believes that Paris’ holistic approach will be more successful over the long term.

“Do you move a school and a hospital away from the noise, or simply move the cars?” says Rojas-Rueda, who was involved in a study that found Barcelona’s Superblock model of pedestrian-first zones led to major reductions in air and noise pollution. “It makes sense to improve the all-round livability of cities.”

And in reducing noise pollution, he says, there’s another key benefit: Inequalities are reduced. Analysis of U.S. data has found noise exposure is greater in areas with higher proportions of nonwhite and low-income residents. The Paris Noise Plan acknowledges these “environmental, social and territorial health inequalities” linked to noise. “The poorest households suffer the worst,” says Lert.

The drab Rue d'Avron, a major artery in a lower-income neighborhood, very much fits that description: It is a world away from the glitz of the Champs-Élysées.

“All day long it’s too loud,” says Felix Westphal, 33, who lives in an apartment that overlooks the street. “Dumpster trucks. Delivery vans. And a horn rings out every time the gates of the compound across the road open – all through the night.”

Some distinctly Parisian noises, however, aren’t likely to be muffled anytime soon. Not far from Rue d'Avron stands the Place de la Nation, a historic square regularly used to begin or end political demonstrations in Paris. Regardless of the sound radar installed nearby, locals suggest that the cherished French tradition of full-throated protest will remain intact.

– *With assistance by Marie Patino*

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SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:11:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/15/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have lived in Waikiki since 1993, at 225 Kaiulani Ave. The loud amplified music that has been allowed to continue on the corner of Kaiulani and Kalakaua, is getting out of control. They draw crowds on the sidewalk, causing pedestrian congestion, tape their QR codes on the sidewalk for tips, and play the same annoying music 4 nights a week, most of the time after 10 PM. This has to stop. We can not enjoy having our windows open because of the noise. My husband was on in home Hospice care, and would beg me to make the noise stop. He was an avid music lover, but the racket they were producing was unbearable. I visited the HPD headquarters on Kalakaua Ave on 3 separate occasions, and they refused to help. I am hoping we can get some help at this point,