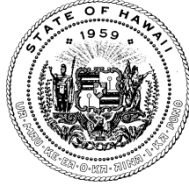


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STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 20, 2025  
10:01 A.M.  
State Capitol, Room 016

**S.B. 1216, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports the intent of S.B. 1216, S.D. 1**, which conditions the issuance of a certificate of inspection for a moped or motor vehicle that has been equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system and addresses the penalties of an official inspection station for the violation of any rule regarding inspecting a noisy muffler or exhaust system.

The HDOT supports the intent of this bill as this would promote adherence of proper vehicle and moped general safety standard as the HDOT has received numerous calls and e-mails from residents, impacted by the noisy aftermarket mufflers. We support any attempts to reduce the exhaust noise problem.

However, the HDOT would like to note that we currently have a method of suspending and revoking official inspection stations in Chapter 19-133.5 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**MOTORCYCLE  
INDUSTRY  
COUNCIL®**

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
415 S Beretania Street  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB 1216 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Chairman Rhoads:

Hundreds of companies represented by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC)<sup>1</sup> oppose unless amended SB 1216, prohibits a person from using on public highways, selling, offering for sale, altering, or installing a muffler, including but not limited to a cut-out, bypass, or similar device, that will noticeably increase noise emitted by the motor vehicle above that emitted by vehicle as equipped from factory and requires a vehicle to not be equipped with a noisy muffler or exhaust system to be issued a certificate of inspection. **We respectfully request that SB 1216 be amended to specify that any original equipment manufacturer or aftermarket exhaust system that is compliant with U.S. EPA regulations is legal.**

SB 1216 does not consider or provide for the installation and use of original equipment or aftermarket replacement exhaust system component parts and mufflers that are certified by the manufacturer to be legal and compliant with Federal EPA noise regulations governing motorcycle exhaust systems. There should be no prohibition against the modification, including the installation of replacement parts, as long as the modification does not result in noise levels that exceed federal sound limits.

We urge SB 1216 be amended as follows:

*§291-24.5 Motor vehicle muffler. (a) No person shall use on a public highway, sell, offer for sale, alter, or install a muffler, including but not limited to a cut-out, bypass, or similar device, that will noticeably increase the noise emitted by a motor vehicle above that emitted by the vehicle as equipped from the factory, except for motorcycles and mopeds that do not exceed U.S. EPA regulations, as specified in 40 CFR § 205.152.*

For these reasons, we oppose SB 1216 unless amended. Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sschloegel@mic.org](mailto:sschloegel@mic.org) or 703-416-0444 x 3202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott P. Schloegel".

Scott P. Schloegel  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

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<sup>1</sup> The Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing several hundred manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle parts, accessories and related goods, and allied trades.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:39:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thanks to the legislature for finally looking for a solution to the terrible unnecessary noise pollution created by these vehicles. The Harley Davidson lobby is not the majority, and the majority of Hawaii residents do NOT want this noise to continue. I fully SUPPORT this bill. Instead of waking the dead, let's keep them asleep! The next step is to get the local law enforcement officials to enforce this law.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 3:21:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill.

What gives people the right to blast unsolicited noise into someone else's ears? Why do the people who oppose this bill think that is okay to do?

Loud, noisy mufflers basically terrorize neighborhoods. Those who are forced to hear them are a captive audience to harmful, loud noise. Their ear-splitting soundwaves rattle windows, even mine on the 16th floor of my building. You can't hear the TV or radio while they go by, and they wake people up from a deep sleep.

This type of noise is detrimental to human and animal health. I feel very sorry for the animals in the Honolulu Zoo as the hordes of bikers go revving down all the streets bordering the zoo.

This bill is needed to be another way to discourage people from installing such mufflers.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 3:26:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG & ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT** for this bill.

Noisy mufflers adversely affect one's health and well-being, disturb sleep, hurt ear drums, force people to stop conversing until they pass, and are just plain obnoxious and rude.

A study has shown that a loud moped can wake up over 20,000 people when traversing the city of Paris, France in the middle of the night.

A much needed way to help stop people from installing them is to not allow a moped or motor vehicle with a modified muffler to pass the annual inspection.

Mahalo for your kind consideration in moving this bill forward as quickly as possible so residents and visitors alike may benefit from it.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 3:59:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A few years ago, I might have noticed a car or two passing through the Punahou & Wilder intersection that was disruptive enough to jar me awake.

Fast forward to last night (and virtually every night for the past year). At least three times per hour, a car with a modified exhaust system (or just plain bad maintenance) shakes the walls and causes my heart to flutter. Sometimes they are so explosive that they cause car alarms to go off, adding to the cacophony. It was bad enough when they were loud, bassy rumblings. But they are now sometimes designed to sound like gunfire, and I can't imagine how this affects people with challenges like PTSD.

If it's early in the evening I might have had to rewind whatever I'm watching on TV, tell friends to hold on the phone to wait for the noise to go by, or, if later, leap out of bed stunned and thinking there was an emergency. It has gotten so bad that I have had to close all my doors, necessitating artificial air conditioning instead of the good fresh air to which I and everyone else should be entitled. This is not only a health and comfort issue. Air conditioning is expensive, not environmentally friendly, and largely unnecessary in a world where legislating common sense isn't required.

Enforcement of existing noise laws has proven difficult. The mechanism must be introduced earlier in the chain, making it difficult for these less socially conscious drivers to get their vehicles to the road in the first place.

Please consider doing something about this problem, as soon as possible.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:18:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JONATHAN LOTT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please continue with this bill and get it passed this session if possible. The noise pollution here in Waikiki is off the charts and seems to be increasing in the last few years. It's out of control due to lack of effective enforcement or restraints. Mahalo,

Jon Lott, Waikiki resident adjacent to Ala Wai Blvd

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 4:30:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cara Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. As a resident of Kakaako, every night I am subjected to loud mufflers at the neighboring building and street which greatly disturbs the peaceful enjoyment of my home.



**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:33:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. Noise is the major complaint of residents nationwide. It affects people's health.

Please move this bill forward.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:48:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Murchie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to control & enforce loud vehicular & amplification noise to keep the peace. It's not fair to residents. We have tried at county level for years to perfect a bill but verbiage didn't suit.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:34:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen T Hazam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB1216.

Noisy mufflers are much more than a nuisance. It is also a matter of Public Health and Safety. Thier noise disrupts the sleep of nearby residents and their startling sound causes unsafe distractions. By increasing penalties for laws already in existence and by enlisting the help of inspection stations, we can prevent these vehicles from legally using our roadways.

Please SUPPORT SB1216

Respectfully,

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:57:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heidi A. Meeker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thank you for hearing this bill. This bill is about hearing, about being disturbed by extreme noise in the middle of the night by vehicles and motorcycles that have been fixed to maximize volume. We now live in an urban environment with buildings praised for having a mauka/makai orientation. As a result, street noise is magnified. It's as if you're putting up 40-story buildings to "cup" your ears. Please do anything you can to stop individuals from gleefully disturbing the peace.

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:34:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I know public testimony and comments don't muster any thought, but I OPPOSE

noisy mufflers are GOOD for safety of moped and motorcycle drivers when they are in blind spots of vehicle drivers. If drivers can't see them, they will hear them. You are proposing audible warning systems in SB312, but making vehicles, mopeds, motorcycles quieter in SB1216?

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:20:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alex Kagawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Over the years, the influx of condominium buildings has increased the density of our urban core. It seems to be popping up faster than in the past and more are on the way. Concrete parking garages are required to provide sufficient parking for condominium tenants. The concrete garages create an echo chamber for all types of sounds from noisy mufflers, loud speakers, and even squealing fan belts. The loud noises in concrete parking garages sets off multiple car alarms depending on how many floors are traversed by the noisy mufflers or loud speakers. Mostly a nuisance during late night and early morning hours.**

**It is important to note that noisy mufflers can be install as aftermarket or as an OEM part.**

**LATE**

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:59:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has too many mopeds, cars & motorcycles that have illegal mufflers. I support SB-1216 because we need better law enforcement.

Samuel Mitchell

Makiki NB-10 & Narfe Hawaii Legislative V.P.

**LATE**

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:18:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Harpenau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Waikiki who has to sleep with earplugs due to loud mufflers, I applaud this bill, and thank you for your efforts. Every effort in this direction to bring Waikiki back to a somewhat peaceful place void of mufflers that make you jump out of your skin and increase stress levels of everyone walking on the street, is welcome. Thank you!



**LATE**

**SB-1216-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:59:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/20/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Marie Saymon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your work on this bill. As a resident of Waikiki we are woken up every night by loud automobiles, mopeds and motorcycles. It would be a great improvent to our quality of life to have these mufflers better regulated.