



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2591
RELATING TO NOISE**

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/18/2026, 1:00 pm, 225

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

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments on this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Indoor and Radiological
6 Health Branch (IRHB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 The Department respectfully comments on this measure which prohibits the operation
8 of privately owned and operated refuse collection vehicles before 6:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.
9 within 500 feet of any area zoned for mixed-use or residential apartment use within any county
10 having a population of 500,000 or more.

11 Efforts to reduce noise pollution aligns with the mission of the Department to protect
12 and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. The Department supports
13 the intent of this bill. However, enforcement by the Department may be problematic as
14 restrictions are outside of normal business hours and the fleeting intermittent nature of the
15 noise source is difficult to identify and measure consistently. Chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes (HRS) defines "excessive noise" as the presence of sound as measured by standard
17 testing devices as established by the noise rules adopted by the department of a volume or in
18 quantities and for durations which endangers human health, welfare or safety, animal life, or

1 property or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property
2 in the State or in such areas of the State as are affected thereby. Chapter 11-46, Hawaii
3 Administrative Rules (HAR), further defines "excessive noise source" as any stationary noise
4 source; and any equipment related to agricultural, construction, and industrial activity which
5 emits sound in excess of the maximum permissible sound levels specified in section 11-46-4,
6 HAR as measured at any point at or beyond the property line. By these definitions, sources
7 regulated by the Department are limited to equipment and activities which create noise that
8 continuously and chronically disrupts daily public life, potentially leading to negative health
9 effects.

10 If placed into 342F, HRS, effective enforcement would require additional resources. In
11 addition, restriction of operational hours for private refuse collection may have unintended
12 consequences including limiting availability for refuse collection services, affecting traffic and
13 impacting pedestrian safety, due to waste removal operations occurring during higher traffic
14 daytime hours.

15

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

17

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

19

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 6:39:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support this bill and greatly appreciate the efforts of Senator Moriwaki to bring it to the attention of the State Legislature. I am the Vice Chair of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board and have been a member of the Board for @ 25 years. Quite a while ago, in response to numerous complaints, our Board passed a Resolution substantially seeking the same goals as this Bill. Despite that, no action has been taken to adjust the schedule or alleviate the problem. Refuse haulers have refused to comply. The City Council has failed to take any action. The Mayor's Office has attempted to assist but while those efforts are appreciated they have not been successful. In the meantime, we continue to receive complaints from constituents who are awakened in the middle of the night. We believe their complaints are valid and that it is unacceptable to expect residents to live this way. For that reason we very much hope that the Legislature will step in and correct this situation.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:41:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

The residents of Waikiki are subjected to excessive noise from trash pickup every single night and our physical and mental health is being negatively affected. A summary of the study of health effects of interrupted sleep as found by Cleveland Clinic indicates the following: severely disrupts physical and mental health, leading to chronic issues like hypertension, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

It causes cognitive impairment, mood changes (irritability, depression), reduced immune function, and higher pain sensitivity. Chronic disruption can also contribute to obesity and even Alzheimer's risk.

Key Effects of Interrupted Sleep:

Cardiovascular System: Interrupted sleep triggers stress hormones that increase heart rate and blood pressure, leading to higher risks of hypertension, heart attacks, and stroke.

Metabolic & Weight Control: Poor sleep disrupts appetite-regulating hormones (ghrelin and leptin), leading to increased appetite, reduced metabolism, obesity, and a significantly higher risk of type 2 diabetes.

Cognitive Function & Mood: Short-term effects include impaired memory, reduced concentration, poor decision-making, and increased irritability or anxiety. Long-term, it may increase the risk of depression.

Immune System: A lack of sleep hinders the body's natural defenses, making it harder to fight off infections.

Physical Performance & Safety: Chronic sleep loss affects coordination and balance, increasing the risk of falls, injuries, and car accidents.

The residents of Waikiki have been asking The City and County of Honolulu to limit overnight trash pickup noise for years now. We do not understand their failure to act to protect our physical and health. We ask that the State of Hawai'i recognize the kuleana to protect the physical and mental well being its citizens and pass State Bill 2591.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:54:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, OPPOSE

NO CHANGES IN REFUSE PICK UP SCHEDULE

STORAGE OF DRIVERS TO PICK UP WAIKIKI TRASH

ELECTED OFFICIALS RIDE WITH THE DRIVERS

2591 SB RELATING TO NOISE.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 11:33:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Banging several times for each container.

Noise that sounds like a bomb going off, and carries for blocks.

Engines that sound like they haven't had a tuneup in a decade.

Reving just to go 20 feet.

And of course: beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep...

All in the wee hours of the morning; night after night after night.

Noise pollution is not just a quality-of-life issue, but it is known as the "not-so-silent killer".

If lawmakers truly cared about the health and well-being of residents, and even the millions of visitors, they will pass SB2591.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 12:01:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

There are noise ordinances and house rules for many reasons. They restrict loud noise from the evening through morning hours. Cities and towns have them. Condo and apartment buildings have them.

Then why are private company garbage trucks allowed to bang out the LOUDEST of noises and awaken hundreds of thousands of people each and every night?

Lawmakers who live in quieter rural areas have no idea how disturbing the noise is. And it not only disrupts sleep, it causes a lack of sleep that is a known detriment to a person's health and well-being. Will these lawmakers who get a full night's sleep be understanding and sympathetic to residents and visitors affected by this noise, and kindly pass this bill?

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:31:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlino Giampolo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do. Pass SB2591. All you need for this noble action is what you already possess: your personal dignity. No one, from newborn keiki to our most elderly kupuna, deserves to be suddenly awakened as early as 3:00 a.m. and sleep-deprived by the activities of private refuse haulers.

This issue is about a very simple choice: Will you pass SB2591 to protect our communities, or will you protect the monetary interests of the Honolulu Disposal Service and West Oahu Aggregate owners?

You already have access to ample information about the harmful health impacts of sleep deprivation from the State Department of Health and leading medical institutions throughout our country. It is abundantly clear to everyone: There are no health benefits to sleep deprivation.

Countless residents impacted by this issue, including myself, have already written in tens of thousands of words over the past few years, debunking all of the objections from private trash haulers and their supporters who want to keep the status quo. Do not be a victim of those who dominate, manipulate, or instill fear with such objections.

With the passage of SB2591, all residents will be forever grateful for the protection of our communities' health. I am confident that Governor Dr. Josh Green will highly commend the legislature for ending this way-too-early morning activity that never, ever should have begun in the first place.

Carlino Giampolo

Waikiki

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 9:03:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Chin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kevin Chin, and I am a Waikīkī resident submitting testimony in strong support of SB2591.

For more than a year, my wife and I—and many other residents—have been subjected to regularly scheduled overnight garbage collection noise during what should be designated quiet hours, often between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The resulting banging, slamming, reversing alarms, and engine noise repeatedly disrupt sleep and significantly impact residents’ health and quality of life.

Since May 2024, I have engaged in sustained, good-faith efforts to resolve this issue through every available government channel. These efforts have included:

- Repeated outreach to Waikīkī Neighborhood Board members
- Formal testimony before the Waikīkī Neighborhood Board
- Attendance and testimony at a City-organized town hall convened specifically to address this issue
- Ongoing communication with City Council offices
- Direct correspondence with the Managing Director, who serves within the Mayor’s Office and is responsible for coordinating executive branch operations
- Providing detailed hotspot locations and documentation of impacts upon request

Despite extensive engagement, meetings, mapping exercises, interdepartmental discussions, and assurances that the matter was being worked on, residents continue to experience the same overnight disturbances today.

After more than a year of outreach and participation, the City's response has remained largely exploratory and procedural rather than corrective. Discussions have continued, but meaningful operational changes have not followed. Most recently, residents were asked to identify the color of garbage trucks responsible for disturbances—effectively requiring those being awakened in the middle of the night to conduct investigative work that the operators and regulators themselves should already be capable of performing through routing, dispatch, and service records.

This pattern reflects a broader institutional failure. The problem has been thoroughly documented, repeatedly acknowledged, and widely supported by Waikīkī residents seeking relief. Yet, despite consistent expressions of concern and stated interest from multiple City officials, meaningful action has not materialized. Too often, engagement has taken the form of meetings, listening sessions, and assurances of future coordination, while the underlying problem remains unchanged.

At some point, continued expressions of interest without corresponding action begin to resemble inaction. Residents are left with the perception that City leadership recognizes the problem publicly but sits idly by as responsibility is deferred between departments and private operators. For a problem that is obvious, well-documented, and strongly backed by the community, this lack of decisive intervention is difficult to reconcile.

Waikīkī residents understand that urban living involves noise. We accept tourism activity, traffic, and nightlife as part of living in a vibrant community. What is unreasonable is the intentional scheduling of industrial-scale operations during what should be designated quiet hours, particularly when the impacts have been clearly demonstrated and repeatedly communicated to City leadership.

SB2591 represents a necessary shift from discussion to accountability. The issue before the Council is no longer whether the problem exists—it clearly does. The question is whether the City will finally establish enforceable standards that prioritize residents' health, sleep, and quality of life.

For over a year, residents have participated in meetings, provided testimony, attended town halls, supplied data, and cooperated fully with every requested process. When sustained civic

engagement produces no meaningful change, legislative action becomes not only appropriate, but necessary.

This bill is not about eliminating garbage collection or creating hardship for operators; it is about restoring balance between essential services and the basic right of residents to sleep during what should be designated quiet hours. When a problem has been studied repeatedly but remains unresolved, continued process becomes indistinguishable from inaction. SB2591 provides the Council an opportunity to demonstrate that persistent community engagement leads to real outcomes—not endless discussion—and that City government responds when residents speak clearly and consistently.

I respectfully urge the Council to support SB2591 and take meaningful action to resolve an issue that has persisted for years despite sustained resident participation and clear notice to City leadership.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:09:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janian K Thurman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Private refuse companies have been plaguing Waikiki for years now. Waikiki endures trash bin collection noise as early as 3:00 am. I live behind Aloha St., which is a staging area for multiple pick-ups. In that pocket of the neighborhood, we endure the clanging and beeping every half an hour between 3 am and 6 am. The residents of Waikiki have been asking the companies to wait until 6 a.m., but continue to be subjected to excessive noise from nightly trash pickup. We have demonstrated that our physical and mental health is being negatively affected. A summary of the study of health effects of interrupted sleep, as found by the Cleveland Clinic, indicates that it severely disrupts physical and mental health, leading to chronic issues like hypertension, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. It causes cognitive impairment, mood changes (irritability, depression), reduced immune function, and higher pain sensitivity. Chronic disruption can also contribute to obesity and even Alzheimer's risk. For the peace of mind of residents and visitors, I ask you to pass State Bill 2591. You must end the suffering of the community and join other cities by limiting the hours during which trash can be collected. Thank you.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:35:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Manglicmot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one should have to live like this is the sentiment of residents who are impacted by way-too-early morning trash pickup activities of private refuse haulers.

There is no justification for this disruptive noise to occur as early as 3 a.m. The private refuse haulers, Honolulu Disposal Service and West Oahu Aggregate, each have refused to hire an additional two workers in order to start their operation at 6 a.m. They have used baseless objections to keep the status quo.

I have personally experienced this tragedy for the past seven years and wonder why our political leadership doesn't protect the health, well-being and quality-of-life of individuals like me.

Please pass SB2591.

Thank you,

Sally Manglicmot

Waikiki

SB2591 – RELATING TO REFUSE COLLECTION. Prohibits the operation of privately owned and operated refuse collection vehicles before 6:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. within 500 feet of any area zoned for mixed-use or residential apartment use.

Submitted by: June Kaneshiro
Date: 2/17/2026

Aloha to the members of the Senate Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee,

If you were to ever have the opportunity to stay in or visit any of the residential areas of Waikiki during the early morning hours, I believe you would be shocked at how freely the private garbage collection trucks are allowed to operate and create loud, sleep-interrupting noise anytime during the very early morning, sometimes as early as 3:00-3:30a. There is the loud consistent beeping from scout trucks driving in reverse with garbage dumpsters attached, sometimes for what it seems like the entire length of Ena Road where I live, and then the garbage trucks revving up and emptying the dumpsters into their compactors with loud, repeated clanging noises. The majority of Waikiki residents are in bed at this time of the morning, sound asleep! I feel sorry for the families with babies and school-age children, for the senior citizens especially the frail elderly, for those who work late-night shifts and are trying to get some shut-eye, and for all the rest of us who are trying to stay healthy and get consistent hours of uninterrupted sleep.

I find it puzzling that the State Department of Transportation is monitoring excessive automotive noise with noise detection cameras at several Waikiki intersections, and is now moving towards enforcement of noise control laws (reference HB1588). In spite of this investment and the monitoring of excessively noisy private vehicles, the private garbage collectors are allowed to create loud, excessive noise throughout the early morning hours on Waikiki streets. They continue to do this even after meeting with and discussing the issue with the mayor and members of his staff (as was reported by the managing director).

I truly hope you will stand up for the residents of Waikiki. Thank you all in advance for your help.

SB-2591

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:46:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Marker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Committee Members:

I'm testifying in support of SB2591 that will limit the hours for private trash collection. This is an important public health measure for our well-being and quality-of-life. Chronic sleep loss caused by loud noises is harmful to our health.

Clearly, you'll hear from Waikiki residents. It's important that you know that this is happening in more neighborhoods. I live in Moiliili on an entirely residential street where we have a mix of condos contracting with private trash collection and small homes and apartment buildings that are served by our City and County. We have NO businesses on these streets. For many years, the private trash collection wakes me, most notably on Sundays, typically at 5:20 am or earlier. Yes, Sundays! It's from the collection for the condo next door but the trucks park and load closer to mine, essentially below my lanai. Actually, this is a common practice for all private collections, to park where it's easy to pull over and drive the small truck to and from the large truck, all with loud mechanical and beeping noises. I've seen private collections on Sundays as early as 3:45 am -- a Super Bowl Sunday. Yes, I've tried all kinds of communications: spoken with my Councilmember's office; talked with the operations person at the private company; and, tried to speak with management of the one condo. Nothing has worked. The nearest businesses are blocks away, on streets like University Ave. and South King St. Truthfully, with so many mixed use Oahu neighborhoods we're having many trash collections at all hours and days. During our COVID stay-at-home period, I counted 15 trash collections (private and City and County combined) a week on my street, but thankfully most were after 6am. Still I couldn't hear to do work-from-home or even think clearly while the pickups were in progress. I was very happy to return to my work site where it was quiet. Consider this: H-Power doesn't open until 6:30am so there's no reason for trash pickup on Sundays (little traffic) to begin so early.

I ask for consideration for our residents and their health and well being. I can't help but worry about babies, people who are ill, and shift workers. I simply don't know how people live like this. Urban living in Honolulu is stressful enough without extra early morning noise; we need our rest and some peace and quiet. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill to protect both physical and mental well being of our residents.

Sincerely

Nancy Marker

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2591

Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2026
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225
& Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: Gregory Misakian (as an individual)

Submitted: 2/17/26

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the HHS Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2591, which should already be established law in Hawaii.

My Background

I currently serve as:

- ❖ President, Kokua Council
- ❖ Vice President, Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)
- ❖ Director, Keoni Ana AOA
- ❖ Member, Good Government Caucus
- ❖ Member, Kupuna Caucus

I previously served on the Waikiki Neighborhood Board from Jan. 2023 to June 2025.

I am a kupuna focused advocate in Hawaii and I also advocate for all who need assistance and need help to get their voices heard.

The negative health impacts due to lack of sleep are well documented. Chronic lack of sleep caused by excessive environmental noise is known to be linked to an increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's. Lack of proper sleep also results in increased stress and reduced cognitive abilities.

Is this what we want for our kupuna who we cherish, or our keiki who should start their days at school with a good night's sleep? If you answered no to that two part question your vote should be clear.

If you are still not sure, I will share first-hand accounts at the hearing on 2/18 of just how bad the issue is, and has been for as long as I have lived in Waikiki.

I hope that you will vote yes on SB2591, which will greatly help to improve the lives of those negatively impacted by very early morning trash pickup in Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Gregory Misakian