

JAN 18 2008

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the last fifteen
2 years, noise levels have risen six-fold in major cities
3 throughout the United States. For many communities, noise
4 generated by highway traffic not only creates environmental
5 problems for residents, but can also have a negative impact on
6 student learning. As the number of cars on Hawaii's highways
7 increases, highway noise contributes to serious hazards to
8 public health and welfare and degrades the quality of life for
9 many communities.

10 The legislature further finds that H-1 is the largest,
11 most-travelled highway in the State, and at times, the traffic
12 noise level from the highway becomes excessively loud in
13 neighborhoods along H-1. The legislature finds that it is
14 appropriate to determine the feasibility of constructing noise
15 barriers along H-1 to reduce the impact of excessive highway
16 noise where H-1 runs through or near residential areas.



1 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of
2 transportation to determine the need for noise barriers along
3 H-1 and the possible costs and benefits of erecting noise
4 barriers to mitigate the negative impact of highway noise in
5 residential areas.

6 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall
7 determine the:

8 (1) Need;

9 (2) Projected costs; and

10 (3) Possible economic and non-economic benefits

11 of constructing noise barriers along the H-1 freeway to mitigate
12 the negative impact of highway noise in residential areas along
13 the freeway and to abate longstanding noise problems for
14 adjacent buildings and communities.

15 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall report
16 findings and recommendations to the legislature not later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
18 2009.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for a



S.B. NO. 2695

1 feasibility study of constructing noise barriers along the H-1
2 freeway.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Transportation; Sound Barriers

Description:

Requires the department of transportation to conduct a feasibility study on the construction of sound barriers along H-1 to reduce traffic noise problems in adjacent buildings and communities.

