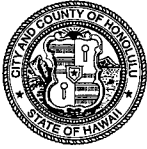


HB 2263



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth, Chair**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
And
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs**

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

2:45 p.m. Room 414

On

HB 2263 Relating to Harbors

**Chairs Menor and English, Vice Chairs Hooser and Gabbard and
Committee Members:**

The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports HB 2263 authorizing the Director of Transportation to draft administrative rules to limit noise allowed for commercial vessels using state harbor facilities.

The Downtown and Chinatown areas have several residential buildings very near the mauka portions of Honolulu Harbor. Our board has received a number of complaints about excessive noise, usually caused by electric motor-generators used to provide power to moored vessels for lighting and refrigeration on a 24-hour basis.

In attempting to accurately measure the noise level, we found that no state or City & County agency has responsibility for enforcement of noise from the harbor area. County Liquor Commissions measure and enforce noise levels from licensed liquor establishments, County Police Departments can determine if excessive noise is coming from residential or commercial units not serving liquor, and the Noise, Indoor Air Quality and Radiation Branch in DOH is responsible for regulating noise from ground-based commercial, construction and industrial activities. None of these agencies can do the same for vessels in harbors.

Our concern is not with occasional boat whistles or public address systems on passenger vessels, it is the noise from maintenance work or power generators that occur in the evening or continually all day and night that is so disturbing.

This measure will simply allow DOT to draft rules covering these harbor situations with enforcement likely by DOH. It will close an enforcement gap and help ensure that our residents near all state harbors can have some peace and quiet!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



testimony

From: Lnmnking@cs.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 7:41 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Diane Dunphy
Subject: HB2263

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Legislature's Public Access Room

TESTIMONY
HOUSE BILL 2263
Relating to Harbors

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
And
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

2:45 p.m.

We heartily support HB2263 to promulgate rules to regulate and limit noise emanating from vessels utilizing our harbors and ports.

The cruise line industry has increased tremendously and cruise ships now regularly visit our ports. Excessive noise generated by cruise ships interferes with citizens' right to peaceful enjoyment of life along the waterfront. Unduly loud noises (i.e. extraordinarily loud horn blasts and blaring music) are not permitted by entities ashore and should not be condoned on ships in port.

The quality of life of the citizens of Honolulu should be preserved and protected. Just as noise generated by land based vehicles and their operators are regulated and controlled, noise generated by vessels in our harbors must likewise be regulated and controlled.

Lloyd & Mollie King
Honolulu, Hawaii

Senator Ron Menor, Chair
Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment

Harbor Neighbors.

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Support of HB 2263, Relating to Harbors

The Superferry at pier 19 in Honolulu has on board the vessel several extremely noisy generators. Repeated requests for a permanent solution to the noise nuisance has been ignored by the Superferry. Requests to DOH, DOT, Harbors and Gov. Lingle have all been dismissed as well. The never ending generator noise is very low frequency so it travels far. The noise is causing sleep deprivation and it is increasing the risk for other health related problems. No one is willing to take responsibility and no one is stepping up the effort to provide a solution to this environmental nuisance. It is frustrating that vessels docked at State harbors are allowed to generate noise pollution and violate another's right to peace and enjoyment of their home and there is nothing the victim can do about it. Harbor related noise needs to be enforced. This is why we urge the committee to pass HB 2263. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.