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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 11, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2263

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation supports this bill.

Existing law allows the Director of Transportation to promulgate rules to regulate the manner in which all vessels may enter and moor, anchor or dock in the commercial harbors, ports, and roadsteads of the State. However, said law may not be specific enough to authorize the Director to promulgate rules limiting any excessive and harmful noises emanating from these vessels. Consequently, we support House Bill 2263 because it would provide clear authority to the Director that the Director has the discretion to promulgate rules specific to noise. The Director can then promulgate rules limiting excessive and harmful noises emanating from the vessels within our commercial harbor system.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Louishagler@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 6:41 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Testimony

Gentlemen:

I wish to comment on HB 2263, Relating to Harbors, that will be considered by your Committee on February 11, 2008, at 9:00 AM.

I am a retired physician with an interest in the public health effects of noise. Having visited Hawaii and appreciating its natural beauty, I am writing to urge passage of HB 2263. The beauty of Hawaii requires protection from pollution of all types.

Noise is one of the most widespread and least controlled environmental pollutants. Many seem to have accepted noise as an inevitable part of modern life. Currently, the threat to health and well being that noise pollution represents is largely ignored, much as threats from other environmental pollutants such as, lead, mercury, asbestos, and tobacco smoke were ignored in the past.

Among its many adverse effects, noise damages hearing, disturbs communication, disrupts sleep, impairs cardiovascular function, interferes with teaching and learning, reduces productivity, harms relationships, provokes unwanted behaviors, and increases accidents. It is a major source of recurring and often unrecognized stress, which, itself, degrades the quality of life and adversely affects health.

Noise pollution accompanies human activity. Population growth, urbanization, and technology all contribute to environmental noise pollution, which makes our cities more stressful and less healthy places. Those who are ignorant of - or unconcerned about - its effects add to the din. Some current noise results from the loss of civility and the lack of concern for the rights of others that pervade our society. Irrespective of the source, we need to reduce the growing exposure to ever louder levels of noise. As a society, we need to "turn down the volume."

Much of the noise to which we are exposed is unwanted and unnecessary. Most of it serves no useful societal purpose. I have recently published an article on the adverse health effects noise pollution that covers this subject in greater detail. It can be seen in its entirety at <http://www.nonoise.org/library/smj/smj.htm>

Citizens need and want respite from noise. They look to the government for protection from this form of pollution, just as they look to the government for protection from many other pollutants. I would remind you that "domestic tranquility" is one of the six guarantees in the United States Constitution. Passage of this measure would agree with the principles laid down by the founding fathers, add immeasurably to the health and quality of life of citizens, support the wishes of most, and harm no one.

Louis Hagler, MD
Oakland, CA
510-482-1998

Who's never won? [Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.](#)

Representative Joseph M. Souki, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Harbor Neighbors.

Monday, February 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.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: Lexie Harrell [lexiekinz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2008 4:16 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: bills HB2263 and HB3001

I am one of those people who suffer real pain from nuisance noise. Please support bills HB2263 and HB3001.

Thank you,
Mrs. Harrell

Noise Free America
Lakeland Chapter

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your home page.
<http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs>