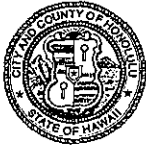


SR 5



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth, Vice Chair**

**Before the
Committee on Energy and Environment**

**Thursday February 24, 2011
3:00 pm, Conference Room 225**

**On
SCR15/SR5**

**Convening A Legislative Noise Pollution Task Force To Review Best
Practices From Other States in Reducing Urban Noise Pollution**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Members of the Committee:

The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports these Resolutions. We are pleased to be specifically designated as a member of the Task force. We were disappointed that the Concurrent Resolution previously introduced was never implemented.

There are certainly things that can be done by both government and individuals to reduce urban noise pollution. Living in the densely populated Downtown and Chinatown neighborhoods, we are very much aware that noise often cannot be avoided, but there are measures, practices and policies that could be adopted to reduce unnecessary or excessive noise which often comes at times when it is considered most objectionable and stressful.

Many of our residents live in low or moderate-income housing with no air conditioning, so they cannot just shut out unwanted noise. We are also concerned with the sometimes very loud noise emanating from, restaurants, bars and other establishments in our neighborhood. This noise is most unwelcome and stressful, especially when it comes from the low-frequency bass music that can even cause windows and furniture to vibrate.

We look forward to active participation on the Task Force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011
Committee on Energy and Environment
Testimony in Support of SCR 15 and SR 5
3:00pm, Thursday, February 24, 2011
Conference Room 225

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, testifying as a private citizen in support of these resolutions. I serve currently as the Vice Chair of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board; the President of the Waikiki Residents Association and Past President (current Vice President) of the AOA Hawaiian Monarch. I mention that because in those capacities I have acquired a fair amount of experience dealing with noise complaints from residents and constituents. I commend Senator Galuteria for introducing these measures because I feel they represent the type of comprehensive approach which is needed to address an issue of paramount importance in our urban communities.

As an example, the neighborhood adjacent to the Hawaiian Monarch represents a microcosm in and of itself of the types of issues that arise and is a veritable case study in competing uses of land and how regulations need to be developed to harmonize these uses in ways that create compatible living for neighbors. In our building itself we have a bar that is licensed to stay open until 4:00 A. M. and we also have a rental facility for automobiles and mini coupes. Across the street we have neighbors in low rise buildings that hear these sounds day and night. We have had many discussions with them and at the Neighborhood Board. We have enlisted the assistance of the Honolulu Police Department and the Department of Health. The end result of these discussions has been somewhat productive in terms of obtaining voluntary cooperation. However, it also has pointed out that these uses are all currently legal, despite how annoying they may be to all the neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity.

That is why this Task Force is such a good idea. It would be very instructive to engage stakeholders in the community to come together and address these issues, and develop solutions. I also support the idea of designating the legislature to take the lead in convening this Task Force. First, I note that noise bills have not generally been successful in the past during the legislative sessions. I believe it would be helpful for legislators to see firsthand the complexities of the issue. Second, I have seen too many Task Forces created where the lead agency was designated within the Executive Branch and essentially little action was taken. I have much more faith that the Task Force will yield productive results if it is convened by the Legislature itself. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.

Louis Erteschik
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Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SR5

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Valere McFarland

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/20/2011

Comments:

Thank you for considering this important measure. Noise pollution is a terrible problem in the Diamond Head area of Waikiki and impacts our physical and mental health. I urge you to form this task force.