
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES TO REGULATE NOISE POLLUTION FROM HOUSEHOLD OR
RESIDENTIAL SOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, all citizens of the State of Hawaii are entitled
2 to live in a safe environment that allows for their physical,
3 mental, and emotional well-being; and
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5 WHEREAS, recent studies conducted by the Perelman School of
6 Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and other
7 international researchers have found that the level of exposure
8 to noise over time is directly linked to the overall health of
9 an individual; and
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11 WHEREAS, one study found long-term exposure to
12 environmental noise results not only in auditory impacts,
13 including loss of hearing, but has also been linked to other
14 negative nonauditory impacts such as cardiovascular disease,
15 cognitive performance, mental health, and sleep disturbance; and
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17 WHEREAS, as the State's population continues to increase
18 and urban areas become more densely inhabited, the levels of,
19 and exposure to, noise also increases exponentially; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Health regulates noise, air
22 quality, water quality, noxious odors, and other environmental
23 factors to ensure the safety and high quality of life of Hawaii
24 citizens; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is charged with the
27 regulation of noise under chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
28 which requires the Director of Health to "prevent, control, and
29 abate noise pollution in the State" and empowers the creation,
30 amendment, or repeal of rules for those purposes; and



1 WHEREAS, the Department of Health currently regulates noise
2 pollution, prohibiting noise in residential zones above 55 dBA
3 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. from certain
4 sources; and


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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's current limitations on
7 noise in residential zones still do not reach a variety of
8 potent noise sources, including household items and domestic
9 gardening tools; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
14 Health is requested to adopt administrative rules to regulate
15 noise pollution from household and residential sources above a
16 rate of 55 dBA on parcels of land zoned as residential,
17 excluding projects with a permit issued by State or County
18 agencies; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
21 requested to consider the following factors in determining
22 whether noise pollution exists: recorded decibel, duration of
23 the noise, time of day at which the noise occurs, nature and
24 source of the noise, the character of the area in which it
25 occurs, and duration of time in which the noise pollution
26 occurs; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health adopt
29 an appropriate system of citations, fines, or other courses of
30 action to address individuals determined to be in violation of
31 the noise pollution rules adopted by the Department of Health;
32 and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

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38 OFFERED BY: 

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