
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO REVISE THEIR PRACTICES TO ALLEVIATE
THE EFFECTS OF AUDIBLE REVERSE WARNING SYSTEMS, OR BACK-UP
BEEPERS, ON REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

1 WHEREAS, the regulations of the Occupational Safety and
2 Health Administration concerning the use of backup beepers, at
3 29 C.F.R. 1926.601(b)(4), do not specifically address refuse
4 collection vehicles; and
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6 WHEREAS, among the industries that the Occupational Safety
7 and Health Administration does regulate, such as construction,
8 vehicles with an obstructed view to the rear are permitted to
9 reverse by either using an audible reverse warning system or an
10 observer who signals that it is safe to reverse the motor
11 vehicle; and
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13 WHEREAS, in a 2010 report entitled *Technology for a Quieter*
14 *America*, the National Academy of Engineering cited backup
15 beepers as one of the six top noise sources people associated
16 with behavioral and emotional consequence; and
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18 WHEREAS, while the standard back-up beeper uses a single
19 tone, typically at a volume of ninety-seven to one hundred
20 twelve decibels, and can be heard from blocks away, the
21 effectiveness of back-up beepers is diminished due to background
22 noise, unconscious adjustment to the overuse of alarms, and the
23 difficulty of the listener in pinpointing its location; and
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25 WHEREAS, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and
26 Health's recommended exposure limit for occupational noise
27 exposures of workers was first established in 1998 and is set at
28 eighty-five decibels, A-weighted (db(A)) for an eight-hour time-
29 weighted average, meaning a person continuously exposed to
30 eighty-five dB(A) over an eight-hour work shift will reach one
31 hundred per cent of the person's daily noise dose; and
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1 WHEREAS, there are existing alternative technologies that
2 are less intrusive than the standard back-up beeper, including
3 ambient-sensitive, self-adjusting backup alarms that increase or
4 decrease their volume based on background noise levels,
5 manually-adjusted alarms, broadband beepers, backup cameras, and
6 radar systems; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration, as part of its
9 "Making Work Zones Work Better" workshop series, identified
10 several noise control options for construction equipment back-up
11 beepers, including self-adjusting alarms, manually-adjusted
12 alarms, using an observer instead of an alarm, and configuring
13 traffic patterns to minimize backing movement; and
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15 WHEREAS, in Hawaii's noise pollution law at section 342F-1,
16 Hawaii Revised Statutes, "excessive noise" is defined in part as
17 noise emitted at "a volume or in quantities and for durations
18 which endangers human health, welfare or safety, animal life, or
19 property or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable
20 enjoyment of life and property"; now, therefore,
21

22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
23 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
24 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature finds that
25 reducing refuse collection vehicles' use of back-up beepers and
26 instead having a co-worker direct the reversing vehicle will
27 increase the quality of residents' lives without reducing
28 safety; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that county practices be revised to
31 utilize alternative methods of signaling when backing up refuse
32 collection vehicles, other than an audible reverse warning
33 system, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any day of the week;
34 and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and
38 Chairperson of the Council of each county, all of whom are, in
39 turn, requested to transmit copies to the head of each
40 department or agency, as the case may be, within their



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respective jurisdictions.

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OFFERED BY: _____

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