



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR51 and HR39  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE  
RULES REGARDING NOISE LEVEL STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND  
COMMERCIAL AREAS OF THE STATE**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 21, 2018  
Time: 8:30 AM

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** This resolution requests that the Department of Health adopt
- 3 administrative rules establishing noise level standards for residential and commercial areas of the
- 4 State, including the enforcement of these standards.
- 5 There are already noise level standards in place for the State contained in Hawaii Revised
- 6 Statutes (HRS), Chapter 342F and Title 11, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Department of
- 7 Health, Chapter 46, "Community Noise Control." The intent of HRS Chapter 342F and HAR
- 8 11-46 was to regulate noise emanating from stationary equipment, and equipment related to
- 9 agricultural, construction, and industrial activities. These types of sources are either fairly
- 10 constant in nature, stationary or restricted to a certain location, and can be enforced more easily.
- 11 Classification of zoning districts and maximum permissible sound levels in dBA for these
- 12 regulated activities are specified in HAR 11-46-3 and 11-46-4.
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**CGPTA**  
**Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association**  
**Since 2006**

**To: The House Committee on Health & Human Services (HHS)**  
**From: The Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)**  
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018  
Time: 8:30 am  
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Re: Strong Support for HCR51 and HR39**, Requesting the Department of Health (DoH) to Adopt Administrative Rules Regarding Noise Level Standards for Residential and Commercial Areas of the State.

Aloha e Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services (HHS):

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm an environmental scientist and chair of the Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA). Consistent with the city's CGP Management Services Contract, residents organized the CGPTA in 2006 to keep ourselves informed and engaged in matters of concern to our resident community. On behalf of the CGPTA, thank you for this opportunity to submit **Testimony in Strong Support of HCR51 and HR39** for the following reasons:

(1) Air pollution includes three sources – dissolved gases, particulate matter, and compression waves that we experience as sound. Humans hear sounds from a low frequency of 20 Hz to a high frequency of 20,000 Hz (Hertz or cycles/second = pitch; wave amplitude = volume). **Excessive human-induced (loud or high-decibel) volume levels are air pollution by law** because they endanger wellbeing, health, safety, and the right to comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

(2) The DoH uses the A-weight (dBA) standard for measuring decibel levels, but dBA filters out low frequencies below 500 Hz, or *C above middle C* on a piano! In fact, **urban soundscapes include the full frequency range of excessive noise, and low frequencies especially endanger health and peace**. In contrast, the C-weight (dBC) standard accurately measures decibel levels across the full range of low-to-high frequencies. dBC is the right standard for measuring Hawaii's urban noise levels!

(3) **It makes no sense that Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Smart Growth promote high-density development with NO provisions to mitigate the increasing urban noise levels** that accompany those higher densities. Surely, we don't intend to allow urban Hawaii to become unlivable for residents and visitors, especially at night, due to a simple failure to address increasing urban noise!

*With a sense of urgent need* for responsible stewardship on behalf of our livable communities, we trust in your leadership to move Hawaii toward effective urban noise level standards. Thank you.

Aloha no,  
The Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)  
Steve Lohse, CGPTA Chair, [CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com](mailto:CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com)