



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 HCR72 and HR58, Requesting the Department of Health (DoH) to Conduct a Study on the Cumulative Health Effects of Persistent Urban Noise in Honolulu.

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 HCR72 and HR58** 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 Honolulu 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 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 Honolulu 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 Honolulu toward effective urban noise level standards. Thank you.

Aloha no,
The Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)
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