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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE  
CUMULATIVE HEALTH EFFECTS OF PERSISTENT URBAN NOISE IN  
HONOLULU.

1           WHEREAS, comprehensive research has shown that there is a  
2 direct link between excessive noise and health issues such as  
3 stress-related illnesses, high blood pressure, hearing loss,  
4 sleep disruption, and lost productivity; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
7 found that hearing loss can result from a single loud sound,  
8 like firecrackers, near your ear, or more often, hearing loss  
9 can result over time from damage caused by repeated exposures to  
10 loud sounds; the louder the sound, the shorter the amount of  
11 time it takes for hearing loss to occur and the longer the  
12 exposure, the greater the risk for hearing loss; and  
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14           WHEREAS, when noise is considered in its entirety and not  
15 solely by individual measurements or considerations it can have  
16 a detrimental cumulative effect; and  
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18           WHEREAS, aggregated unrestrained noises occurring around  
19 the clock can significantly affect the quality of life of  
20 Honolulu's urban dwellers and detract from a sustainable livable  
21 urban environment; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the residents of urban Honolulu experience noise  
24 as part of the increasingly loud urban soundscape; and  
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26           WHEREAS, an inventory of some of the frequent and pervasive  
27 urban noise derived from various sources includes:  
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- 29           (1) Buses "kneeling" along the Beretania Street, Hotel  
30 Street, and King Street routes, which generate a  
31 hydraulic noise followed by a beeping noise;  
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- 1           (2) The high-pitched and extremely piercing sirens of fire  
2           trucks and ambulances;  
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- 4           (3) The downshifting of fire trucks coming down Nu‘uanu  
5           Avenue to King Street;  
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- 7           (4) Garbage trucks circling through Chinatown and downtown  
8           Honolulu with their back-up beepers and rattling large  
9           containers beginning at 4:30 a.m. and sometimes as  
10          early as 2:30 a.m.;
- 11
- 12          (5) Honking car horns and car alarms at unpredictable  
13          times;  
14
- 15          (6) Tourist trolley bells clanging three to four jingles  
16          in a row;  
17
- 18          (7) Squealing noises that are particularly penetrating and  
19          intense from poorly maintained brakes of buses,  
20          garbage trucks, and tourist trolleys;  
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- 22          (8) Loud motorcycle engines that can also trigger more  
23          noise by setting off car alarms;  
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- 25          (9) Mopeds without mufflers or with modified mufflers; and  
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- 27          (10) Back-up beepers on various vehicles that can be heard  
28          from blocks away, which are especially noticeable at  
29          night and in the early morning; and  
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31           WHEREAS, other sources of noise that contribute to the  
32   urban cacophony and discord include:

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- 34          (1) Low-frequency repetitive bass music that emanates with  
35          occasional spikes in volume from music playing at area  
36          venues, especially open-air venues;  
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- 38          (2) Smokers congregating outside their favorite bar or  
39          restaurant, often continuing 2:00 a.m. or later;  
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- 1 (3) Leaf blowers in the street, parks, and around
- 2 residential buildings during and outside of the
- 3 legally permitted times;
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- 5 (4) People whistling and yelling at each other throughout
- 6 the night; and
- 7
- 8 (5) Homeless campers creating various noises, including
- 9 the occasional quarrel or fight; and

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 11 WHEREAS, other more intermittent noises add up to  
 12 additional disruptive noise that intrude on urban residents in  
 13 the day and night, such as:

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- 15 (1) Power washing of streets and private plazas;
- 16
- 17 (2) Grease trap pumping at some restaurants starting as
- 18 early as 6:00 a.m. and utilizing a very loud motor;
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- 20 (3) Street cleaning machines that tend to be operated
- 21 about 4:30 a.m.;
- 22
- 23 (4) Recycling operations from bars that involve a large
- 24 dump of glass bottles all at once and sorting of
- 25 individual bottles, several times a week at
- 26 unpredictable hours; and
- 27
- 28 (5) Harbor noise, including loud hammering; and

29  
 30 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has jurisdiction over  
 31 noise pollution under chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
 32 which requires the Director of Health to prevent, control, and  
 33 abate noise pollution in the State; now, therefore,

34  
 35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 36 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
 37 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health, in  
 38 consultation with the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the  
 39 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is requested to conduct a study  
 40 on the cumulative health effects of persistent urban noise in  
 41 Honolulu, including the extent of urban noise, its effect on



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1 quality of life, and possible solutions utilized by other urban  
2 environments that may be effective in Honolulu; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
5 requested to submit its findings and recommendations to the  
6 Legislature by September 1, 2021; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
10 Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Mayor of the City  
11 and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu City  
12 Council, and Chairperson of the Downtown-Chinatown Neighborhood  
13 Board.  
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15  
16

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*ALICE A. MELOTTI*  
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*Tom [Signature]*

MAR 05 2020

