

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENCING
LIVE GUNFIRE ACTIVITIES AT PUULOA RIFLE RANGE BEFORE 10:00
A.M. DAILY, IN ORDER TO HELP LIMIT THE NEIGHBORING
COMMUNITY'S EXPOSURE TO LOUD AND EXCESSIVE NOISE.

1 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization,
2 excessive noise poses serious harm to human health and
3 interferes with daily activities during school, work, home life,
4 and leisure time; and

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6 WHEREAS, exposure to excessive noise may result in sleep
7 disturbances, cardiovascular effects, hearing loss, other
8 psychophysiological effects, reduced performance, annoyance, and
9 changes in social behavior; and

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11 WHEREAS, residents of Ewa Beach have repeatedly raised
12 concerns about the timing and levels of noise, including
13 loudspeaker announcements and live gunfire, emanating from the
14 Puuloa Rifle Range and Training Facility operated by the United
15 States Marine Corps; and

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17 WHEREAS, minutes of Ewa Neighborhood Board meetings held in
18 May, June, August, and September 2019 reflect numerous
19 observations and concerns relating to noise from the rifle
20 range, including:

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22 (1) Increased residential development that has resulted in
23 a higher concentration of residents affected by
24 excessive noise;
25
26 (2) The lack of observed quiet hours at the Puuloa Rifle
27 Range and Training Facility, compared to other
28 military-operated rifle ranges on Oahu;
29



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- 1 (3) Announcements made from the range's public address
2 system that routinely commence before 7:00 a.m. and
3 sometimes as early as 5:00 a.m.;
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- 5 (4) Live gunfire that sometimes commences as early as 6:00
6 a.m. and continues into the evening hours;
- 7
- 8 (5) Reports from area residents about noise that can be
9 heard before 7:00 a.m., subsequent to the making of
10 adjustments at the range;
- 11
- 12 (6) A recent six-month closure of the range that resulted
13 in heavier use upon re-opening, for purposes of re-
14 certifying service members;
- 15
- 16 (7) Further efforts by the Marine Corps to mitigate the
17 noise, which include reducing the volume of the sound
18 system; reducing the time spent on live firing, which
19 runs from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and more recently,
20 installing noise abatement equipment; and
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- 22 (8) Discussion among members of the Ewa Neighborhood Board
23 on a proposed resolution and amended resolution, which
24 ultimately went unadopted, relating to noise from the
25 rifle range; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands the importance of the
28 Puuloa Rifle Range and Training Facility in relation to the
29 United States Marine Corps' ability to conduct long-range rifle
30 training, but also believes that it is reasonable to seek to
31 balance military preparedness with maintaining a high quality of
32 life for nearby community members; now, therefore,

33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
36 that the United States Marine Corps is urged to refrain from
37 commencing live gunfire activities at Puuloa Rifle Range and
38 Training Facility before 10:00 a.m. daily, in order to help
39 limit the neighboring community's exposure to loud and excessive
40 noise; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Marine Corps
2 is requested to work with any non-government entities allowed to
3 use the rifle range, such as the Puuloa Rifle and Pistol Club,
4 to ensure that uses of the range not involving military training
5 also do not commence before 10:00 a.m.; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Commanding Officer of the
9 United States Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Noise Section Supervisor
10 of the Department of Health, President of the Puuloa Rifle and
11 Pistol Club, and Spokesperson of A Quieter Oahu.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Favelle

