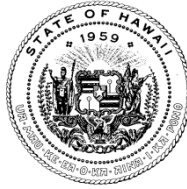


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 19, 2021
10:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.C.R. 73 / H.R. 62
REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADOPT RULES
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 91, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO REQUIRE
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF NOISE EMITTED BY THE
VEHICLE'S EXHAUST**

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation **opposes** these resolutions.

The Department is concerned that adding decibel level testing to periodic motor vehicle inspections would increase the cost of the program to drivers, increase the requirements of testing beyond the capability of stations within the program, and will provide little benefit in the way of muffler noise reduction in the community.

Accurate measurements of motor vehicle exhaust sound level is a complex task that requires accurate measuring instruments, trained specialists, and a quiet, controlled environment. The tests are time consuming, and not all vehicles can be tested in the same manner. An inaccurate test can cause a vehicle owner to spend money on a needless repair. Many station owners may not have the equipment, specialists, or required facility to perform such tests.

Motor vehicle manufacturers are required by the Environmental Protection Agency to build vehicles that emit no more than 87 decibels. Vehicles that emit greater noise have a worn-out muffler, an aftermarket muffler or no muffler. Vehicle owners who modify their vehicle to make more noise cause most of the exhaust noise problem. These vehicle owners can easily swap out the aftermarket muffler for a stock muffler to pass the periodic inspection. When the inspection is passed, the owners could go home and replace the stock muffler with the aftermarket muffler.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

**TESTIMONY OF LARRY S VERAY
TO**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION RELATED VEHICLE EXHAUST NOISE
IN SUPPORT OF HCR73**

***REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADOPT RULES
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 91 HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO REQUIRE
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF NOISE EMITTED BY THE
VEHICLE'S EXHAUST***

MARCH 18, 2021

Aloha, Chair Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Gregory Ilagan Transportation Committee members. I am Larry Veray, Chair for the Pearl City Neighborhood Board No.21. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our Neighborhood board members and 42,000 residents in Pearl City based on our previous Board resolutions on excessive vehicle exhaust noise negatively impacting our community.

Excessive noise is severely impacting our residents in Pearl City. Much of our residential areas are very close to main transit roadways where loud exhaust vehicles impact our people at rest at all hours of the day. One can't get a complete night's sleep without a loud modified muffler waking them up during their rest period. The noise problem is totally out of control by this State and the entire country because lawmakers were not bold enough to truly be creative to work this hard problem from approving a vehicle exhaust noise emission law, purchasing noise measuring technology for vehicle inspectors, holding vehicle inspector accountable for fraudulent safety inspections and severely penalizing owners of modified loud mufflers operating on Hawaii roadways. In addition, HPD enforcement requires the technology to conduct random vehicle noise measuring checkpoints to reduce the number of violators and mitigate this problem.

I most strongly urge you to support and approve HCR73. You have the ability to make the right decision for the many citizens negatively impacted by vehicle exhaust noise. Mahalo!

Very respectfully,

Larry S. Veray