
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO ENFORCEMENT TO REDUCE NOISE FROM TWO-STROKE ENGINES, MOPEDS, AND SMALL OFF-ROAD ENGINES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE TO HELP REDUCE NOISE POLLUTION FROM THESE SOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, noise pollution is a serious, prevalent, and
2 increasing problem affecting peace, tranquility, and quality of
3 life in the State, particularly in urban areas, but also in
4 suburban and rural areas; and

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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents should not be exposed to noise
7 pollution that is hazardous to their health or welfare as
8 excessively loud and unabated noises can result in
9 physiological, psychological, and economic damage; and

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11 WHEREAS, efforts to protect communities from noise
12 pollution have been codified under chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised
13 Statutes, and in chapter 11-46, Hawaii Administrative Rules; and

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15 WHEREAS, in addition, section 46-17, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes, authorizes any county to adopt ordinances regulating
17 noise, among other things; and

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19 WHEREAS, existing regulatory measures lack effective
20 enforcement and do not adequately address noise pollution; and

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22 WHEREAS, loud two-stroke engines, such as internal
23 combustion engine mopeds, are significant contributors that have
24 raised ongoing concerns in communities throughout the State; and

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26 WHEREAS, mopeds and other motor vehicles with after-market
27 modifications to engine or exhaust systems are often many times
28 louder than what is allowable; and

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30 WHEREAS, small off-road engines, which are used primarily
31 in lawn and garden equipment, can also emit excessive noise; and



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2 WHEREAS, excessively loud vehicles and small off-road
3 engines, such as leaf blowers and other lawn and garden
4 equipment, are difficult to regulate because of the mobile and
5 dispersed nature of this type of equipment; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
9 that the Department of Health is requested to examine issues and
10 barriers to enforcement of restrictions to reduce noise
11 pollution, including the possibility of funding commercial
12 rebates or similar incentive funding to support the transition
13 to quieter operations by zero-emission mopeds and small off-road
14 equipment; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
17 requested to prepare and submit a report of its findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 Legislature no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
20 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

