



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony COMMENTING on HB1545
RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN K. TAM, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS
Hearing Date: 2/10/2022 Room Number: Via Teleconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** No funding is provided to support this measure. Funding needed to adopt
2 rules and regulate noise from vehicles is currently unknown, but will require substantial
3 resources for development, implementation and enforcement of vehicle noise use and sales.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** This measure seeks to prohibit the use and sale of vehicles which emit
5 noise and requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules banning such activities.
- 6 The Department shares your concerns about vehicle noise in the community. However, the
7 intent of Title 19, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Chapter 342F and Title 11, Hawaii
8 Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-46 is to regulate noise emanating from stationary
9 equipment and equipment related to agricultural, construction and industrial activities. These
10 types of sources are either fairly constant in nature, stationary or restricted to a certain location
11 and can be efficiently enforced by the Department.
- 12 The Department has concerns, however, about 342F-30.5(b) of this measure, the mandate to
13 adopt rules regulating the sale and use of vehicles which emit noise. Title 17, HRS Chapter 286
14 currently regulates motor vehicles for sale, ownership, registration and inspection for proper
15 operating conditions (vehicle registration and certificates of inspection). Also, Title 17, HRS
16 Chapter 291-24 and 291-24.5 prohibits the modification of exhaust systems on motor vehicles as
17 well as mopeds and motorcycles in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by

1 such vehicles. Therefore, adequate mechanisms currently exist to ensure proper operating
2 conditions of vehicles and associated equipment .

3 Further, vehicular noise surveys by DOH were discontinued when HAR Chapter 11-42,
4 “Vehicular Noise Control for Oahu” was repealed by Act 283 of the 2000 Legislature due to the
5 limited success rate in obtaining violations as well as reductions in program personnel and
6 resources. As such, the intent of this bill may be better served within Title 17, HRS Chapters
7 286 and 291 for motor and other vehicles.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:07:57 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler S.	Quieter & Healthier Maui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this important bill (HB1545) for the health and quality of life of Hawaii residents. Studies increasingly detail the environmental health hazard posed by persistent noise pollution, with *intentional* and excessive loud vehicles a growing and pervasive cause in our State. Current laws and efforts are not working, and the Department of Health should be part of the solution with clear rules like it has for stationary sources of noise. The current law has a gaping hole for one of the most common sources of noise that directly impacts almost everyone.

Maui residents recently formed a group, with a particular focus on reducing vehicle noise and its harmful short & long term mental & physical health effects. In addition, these excessively loud vehicles are often correlated with reckless fast driving and higher exhaust pollution from their modified mufflers.

For more info, please refer to:

- [Hundreds of Maui residents](#) who have signed and commented on our [petition](http://bit.ly/sign-noise-petition) (http://bit.ly/sign-noise-petition) addressing this problem
- Our [letter and white paper](#), which includes references to health studies

Mahalo!



HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 9:41:36 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Waikiki, i know noise is a problem. It bounces off buildings. This bill would help.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:55:57 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Grande	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live at Ekahi Village #44C at the corner of Wailea Alanui and Okalani. The traffic noise that comes from these two streets is ridiculous. I sincerely believe that many drivers intentionally try to make as much noise as possible and it significantly reduces the value of my property and my ability to enjoy my own home.

Mike Grande

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:40:03 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure. We are continuously assaulted with increasing volume on unneeded irritating noise produced by selfish individuals. We are exposed to it day and night. Any action that can mitigate this will make for a better community. Mahalo

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:01:14 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John P Gerry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill and make living in Hawaii better for everyone. Loud vehicles are a health hazard and proven to degrade the health of everyone.

[Noise pollution health effects: Impact on mental and physical health \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/322822)

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Bl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Unnecessary noise interferes with the tranquility we associate with Hawaii and drowns out the bird calls, not to mention scaring them away.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:38:29 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kent Rayhill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Unfortunately myself, and my neighbors, have become an unwilling experts in the negative effects of constant noise pollution. We live in a neighborhood that shares its borders with a county baseyard. Over the years the activity in this baseyard has dramatically increased and gotten louder. We live with massive 30 ton trucks that consistently break existing noise laws. Trucks that begin making noise before 5am, 5 days a week. It's hard to explain what it's like to live with this kind of noise (huge engines that shake houses, constant reverse beeping, construction noises, etc.) unless you have experienced it yourself. It literally feels like torture some days. I fully support any laws, restrictions and/or measures that will help bring much needed peace to anyone suffering from excessive noise pollution, like my neighborhood does. We also need to see those laws enforced, even if the state or county is breaking them. Mahalo.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:27:04 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Gross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Anything that can be legislated by our government to mitigate noise:from vehicles, aircraft, animals, etc. is greatly appreciated. Too often, there are people who either aren't aware or don't care what they do and how their actions impact the PRIVACY of so many of us who live in Hawaii. At the same time, we need to mindful that future technology, particularly drones, will also have an impact on not only our ears but on our privacy. We hope that in future bills, this issue will be tackled as well.

Mahalo!

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:59:44 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Troy T Gustafson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live by Honoapiilani Hwy. The noise from normal traffic is noticeable but tolerable. The noise from extra loud vehicles is extremely annoying and offensive. These vehicles are overly loud for no reason other than to be loud it should not be permitted.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:50:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jerome Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1545

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:11:25 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am a long-term resident of Waikiki and am sure anyone reading my testimony can easily understand why I FULLY SUPPORT HB1545! I thank my Representative Tam and all his colleagues who introduced this bill and sincerely hope that this bill will be passed out of your committees.

It is an established fact that noise has adverse effects on one's health. It affects a person's hearing and causes stress.

Modified mufflers on cars, trucks, and motorcycles are so loud as they cruise up and down Waikiki streets that my husband and I must always stop talking to each other, even when our 16th floor windows are closed, while we wait for the vehicles to pass before we may finish our sentences. I am sure this affects households and businesses statewide. Please kindly consider passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:37:42 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1545. Noise pollution seriously affects the health and well-being of all who are forced to hear it by being captive audiences. Some noise is not able to be controlled, but the types of noises caused by modified mufflers are the most unnecessary and rude to fellow neighbors and residents.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:45:35 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Dorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this. It will make Maui even more wonderful.

HB-1545

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:51:49 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tim Hailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I live on Kalai Waa Street on Maui. We are seeing and hearing a tremendous amount of vehicles, including motorcycles that have their exhaust systems modified. They are extremely loud and obnoxious and make it difficult to concentrate and even sleep.

Not only this, I am experiencing this all over the island now. Something needs to be done about this. The noise pollution we are experiencing is really affecting our quality of life living here now.

I suggest having a muffler law at the very least and have vehicles screened during annual safety checks for this and/or modified exhaust systems that create noise pollution.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your Kokua,

Tim Hailey