



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2127**  
**RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: 2/9/2022

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

1 well as mopeds and motorcycles in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by  
2 such vehicles. Therefore, adequate mechanisms currently exist to ensure proper operating  
3 conditions of vehicles and associated equipment .

4 Further, vehicular noise surveys by DOH were discontinued when HAR Chapter 11-42,  
5 “Vehicular Noise Control for Oahu” was repealed by Act 283 of the 2000 Legislature due to the  
6 limited success rate in obtaining violations as well as reductions in program personnel and  
7 resources. As such, the intent of this bill may be better served within Title 17, HRS Chapters  
8 286 and 291 for motor and other vehicles.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:42:14 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
A Quieter O'ahu	Testifying for A Quieter O'ahu - A Hawai'i 501c3 organization	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i has had enough noise and noise abuse. We have had more than enough. You have only to look at the Blog Entries from residents across the State who use our Quieter O'ahu Forum (<https://www.quieteroahu.com>) as an outlet for the frustration and abandonment they feel as their quality of life and health are negatively impacted by noise pollution everywhere. Or better yet, stand on Kalakaua Avenue any day or evening and listen to the pollution of noise. Read the comments of hundreds to thousands of tourist who comment that the noise is so bad they will never return to Waikiki. We have allowed this to go on for too long. It must be stopped.

Motor vehicles are among the worst noise polluters:

- 1) Motorcycles pollute these island in packs with the majority of all motorcycles illegally modified with aftermarket exhausts which riders and the aftermarket industry which supplies these exhaust KNOW to be harmful to anyone proximate to the noise they generate.
- 2) A growing segment of owners of Trucks, automobiles, and even mopeds also have a desire to underscore their presence by creating noise, emulating the "Drift" and "Fast and Furious" cars seen in the movies. Fine for movies - not for our congested island homes. And again it is noise at such dangerous levels that it literally threatens health of bystanders, and it negatively impacts everyone's quality of life.
- 3) Stereos with amplifiers and speakers that can literally explode eardrums continue to be installed in motor vehicles across the State. The low frequency bass sound of these systems, specifically, can penetrate even the walls of homes along the highways, and blocks away from the highways, other vehicles, and in many instances can be heard a quarter-mile away, or further.

These are just some of the abuses of noise by motor vehicles. And it has to stop. We've had enough. Enact Noise Legislation that will protect the health of Hawai'i residents, and restore their quality of life that has been so negatively impacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Quieter O'ahu



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:58:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for considering this important bill 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!



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:07:09 AM  
Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

As coordinators for the Free Access Coalition we support this noise supression bill. Free access to peace and quiet is an important right we all need. Inconsiderate noise-makers need to be held accountable for the intrusion they make on the general public.

This bill is not an encroachment on "personal freedom." It is an enforcement of "the pursuit of happiness" for the general society.

Mahalo for your time.



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

› NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

February 9, 2022

Senate Committee on Health

Senate Bill 2127

**LATE**

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board is in favor of the concept of SB 2127, Vehicle Noise.

Vehicle Noise in Waikiki has become an issue of concern for the past several years. Use of after market mufflers and removal of mufflers has created an environment that deprives resident of sleep which can create a health issue for them.

While many may complain that Waikiki is heavily constructed with concrete and this amplifies noise there is nothing, we can do about it.

Establishment of a reasonable decibel level for vehicle noise emissions will help our residents and vehicle operators.

Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated,

Robert Finley  
Chair



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 7:45:19 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Waikiki, noise from vehicles especially motorcycles bounces from building to building. It often wakes me at night. More regulation is necessary.



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 1:58:26 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm very happy this bill has been introduced! The noise from these retrofitted vehicles is more than a nuisance. It is extremely annoying and aggravating, lowering quality of life in the city. Please pass this bill! Thank you!

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 2:13:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill needs to be enforced. I am a senior living on coral st and queen and every weekday morning between 5-7 the noise from these cars is incredible. And some weekends it's like drag racing. If a cop was stationed here, they would give out 4-5 tickets every morning til the perpetrators fixed their cars. Mahalo for enforcing this. Irene kloepfer

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/5/2022 9:30:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a full time resident in Waikiki since 2005 and an adult resident of O'ahu since 1970, I support the intention of SB2127 to curb extraneous loud noise as it relates to motorized vehicles. The unkind, inconsiderate excessive noise generated while transversing the limited access roads of Waikiki is not necessary for vehicles to function. I do not deny the happiness of those who want to blow out their ears or spend money on extravagant modifications but if it does not enhance performance and simply amplifies sound for the mere satisfaction of a wayward soul, it should be stopped for the BENEFIT OF ALL instead of the pleasure of the few. Please maintain a noise meter outside of Waikiki to provide an invisible barrier to TOO MUCH NOISE on our Waikiki streets. Thank you.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 1:52:12 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm not sure why we have been assaulted for so many years and are now just tackling this pervasive problem. Please support this important bill!

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:09:54 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
William Short	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The street noise is significantly magnified for those of us who live in high rises in Waikiki. Given that, my wife and I can barely hear the large public transit busses, yet the smallest moped with a bad or amplified muffler sounds like a lawn mower inside our little condo. Larger vehicles such as souped-up cars and motorcycles with modified mufflers are dangerously worse. They are loud enough to where it can be harmful to our health. This is true even when our windows are closed.

PLEASE, pass this bill!! AND, add additional legislation that addresses those drivers that purposely rev their engines late at night, such as those who drag down Kapahulu Ave near Jefferson Elementary School with excessively loud engines after midnight when few cars are on the road.

Thank you!

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 5:01:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Department of Health is what needs to GO!!

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 3:17:11 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bernyce Peplowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii physician, residing in Kaka'ako. My board certification is in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. I am a fellow of the Amer College of Preventive Med, and am the immediate past Chair of Board of the Western Occupational and Environmental Med Assn (which covers 5 western states, including Hawaii). I am also an Associate Clinical Prof in Prev Med at Loma Linda University.

The deleterious health effects of noise include hearing loss, yet go far beyond to other organ systems. Although the action level is 80 decibels, symptoms/findings have been documented in levels above 55 to 75 dcb. These ill effects include:

- Cardiovascular (increased blood pressure and heart rate)
- Sleep disturbances (which impact every organ, including brain and the development of dementia)
- Tinnitus
- Cognition in children
- Psychiatric disorders

Noise pollution is only second to air pollution for negative health effects. First article below notes early morning trash trucks. I have attached 2 references, the first from WHO. There are many more high quality, evidence based studies to support same.

<https://www.science.org.au/curious/earth-environmental/health-effects-environmental-noise-pollution>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/347682251>

Respectfully and humbly submitted, with many mahalos for your selfless and endless giving to our village

bernyce

B PEPLOWSKI, DO, MS, FACOEM



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:25:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Deutzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

We live near the corner of Kapahulu Ave and Cartwright in Waikiki. The constant bombardment of our area with loud mufflers, mufflers tricked out with explosive sounds and loud music has made our slice of paradise unihabitable. The blaring noise triggers car alarms which starts another cascade of horror. Something needs to be done urgently.

Mahalo,

John Deutzman

204, Kapahulu Ave 603

Honolulu HI, 96815

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 1:57:51 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Feena Bonoan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Feena Bonoan

Makakilo, HI

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 4:59:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
barbara steinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i support this bill and ask boom boxes to be added as loud vehicles and gas emissions as air pollution

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:55:04 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:28:40 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mei Mailou-Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill especially in the Wailuku and Waiehu area where there are alot of elderly home owners who would appreciate less noise in their neighborhood.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:02:44 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John P Gerry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect the health of everyone on Hawaii by passing this bill.

[Noise pollution health effects: Impact on mental and physical health \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324111)

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:43:26 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Steven Bl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If you stop and listen, it is amazing how much noise pollution is drowning out the sound of the birds and interfering with the tranquility we all love. Unnecessarily loud cars and motorcycles are a large part of this. Please pass this bill.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:36:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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. This bill states "Citizens of Hawaii are entitled to a healthy and peaceful environment" and I 100% agree. 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 sate or county is breaking them. Mahalo.



**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:25:48 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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!

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 12:59:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mary Anne Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Unnecessarily noisy vehicles that can be heard for a full minute after they pass plague the intersection of Wailea Alanui and Okalani. Some motorcycles add a loud POP POP POP sound that has nothing to do with their engines--they're installed just to make noise. This noise **LOWERS OUR PROPERTY VALUES** and our ability to use our condos for repeat rentals, as once a renter has stayed a week anywhere near this intersection, they never come back. It is long past time to preserve the quality of Maui life by outlawing these vehicles.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:19:08 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Vehicle noise pollution is a serious problem on Maui, having adverse impact on hearing and the nervous system, especially on children and the elderly. Noise-polluting vehicles are often also more air-polluting than ordinary cars.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:56:49 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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.

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:52:37 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am a long-term resident of Waikiki and am sure anyone reading my testimony can easily understand why I FULLY SUPPORT SB2127! I thank my Senator Moriwaki and all her 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

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:44:40 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Dorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**SB-2127**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:02:31 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/9/2022 1:15:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please accept my FULL SUPPORT of SB2127. The excruciatingly loud mufflers not only cause immediate annoyance while having to wait for them to pass by before speaking again or hearing music or the television, but its long-term effect on one's hearing and well-being are well documented. Mahalo to all for considering this bill to become a much needed law in Hawaii.