



Testimony for SB 108, Relating to Vessels

Senate Committee on Transportation & Culture & the Arts

February 6, 2025

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group is respectfully **opposed** to SB 108, relating to vessels.

This bill authorizes the Director of Transportation to adopt rules that regulate and limit noise from vessels using the commercial harbors, ports, roadsteads, docks, wharves, piers, quays, bulkheads, and landings of the State.

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group is deeply committed to community safety and to being responsible community partners. Our members seek to minimize noise when feasible and federal laws already regulate the noise caused by maritime vessels regarding, for example, sound signal appliances like whistles, bells, and gongs; focusing on their frequency range, sound pressure levels, and placement on the vessel to ensure safe navigation and minimize noise pollution. Supporting public safety is of the utmost importance.

We also have concerns that regulations which could restrict vessel operations based on noise levels could force ships to adjust their schedules, leading to longer wait times for cargo unloading and delivery. Any slowdown in harbor operations risks delaying essential goods—including food, medicine, and construction materials—potentially increasing shortages and tending to drive up costs for residents and businesses. While concerns about noise pollution are understandable, this bill has the potential to create economic harm by disrupting Hawaii's critical shipping lifeline, increasing costs, and threatening jobs.

Given Hawaii's unique dependence on maritime transportation, we ask that you please do not advance this bill.