

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HB 61, RELATING TO NOISE

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 12, 2009

Bill No. 61

Support Y N

Date 2/10/09

Time 4:13p

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Type 2 WI

1 **Department's Position:** We respectfully oppose the bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Implementation would require additional funding to promulgate administrative
3 rules for the use of the dBC scale and vibration, and to procure sound level meters that utilize the dBC
4 scale.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill proposes to amend Chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
6 require the Department of Health to substitute the dBC weighting system for the current dBA weighting
7 system for the purpose of community noise control.

8 Implementation of this measure would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive
9 Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010.

10 We understand that low frequency sound has disturbed residents, however, the dBA scale is the
11 standard measuring system to assess hearing conservation and community noise measurements because
12 it is most similar with sensitivities to the human ear. The dBC scale is specifically used when measuring
13 high sound levels or lower frequency noise such as music. Therefore, changing the measuring scales for
14 the type of noise (e.g., steady state noise from exhaust fans, noise from commercial, industrial,
15 agricultural activities) the department regulates is inappropriate.

1 The Department opposes this measure because the dBC scale is not the standard measuring scale
2 for community noise.

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