WHEREAS, unwanted and disturbing sound increases the risk for a variety of negative health outcomes, such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, hearing loss, and sleep disturbance; and

WHEREAS, environmental noise, also known as noise pollution, is unwanted or harmful outdoor noise created by human activities, including noise emitted by several means of transportation and from sites of industrial activities; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of Americans suffer from a range of adverse health outcomes due to noise exposure, including heart disease and hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, two studies in 2013, involving millions of British residents living near airports, reported an association between exposure to airport noise and increased hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, according to the European Environmental Agency, environmental noise causes at least ten thousand cases of premature death in Europe each year, with almost twenty million adults suffering annoyance and a further eight million suffering sleep disturbance; and

WHEREAS, according to the European Court of Human Rights in 2003, sleep is an essential part of healthy life and is recognized as a fundamental right under the European Convention on Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has identified noise
as the second most significant environmentally related cause of ill health, second only to air pollution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Clean Air Act, the Administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency established the Office of Noise Abatement and Control to investigate and study noise and its effect on public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, through the Office of Noise Abatement and Control, the Environmental Protection Agency coordinated all federal noise control activities, but in 1981, it was determined that noise issues were best handled at the state and local level of government; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 1981 determination, the Office of Noise Abatement and Control was closed and primary responsibility of addressing noise issues was transferred to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, different areas around the State have different levels of noise pollution from various sources and may require different recommendations than those of the continental United States or other countries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Health is requested to compile studies and make recommendations for state and county legislation to best protect residents from noise pollution in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

[Signatures]

MAR - 9 2018