

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENCING  
LIVE GUNFIRE ACTIVITIES AT PUULOLOA RIFLE RANGE BEFORE 10:00  
A.M. DAILY, IN ORDER TO HELP LIMIT THE NEIGHBORING  
COMMUNITY'S EXPOSURE TO LOUD AND EXCESSIVE NOISE.

1           WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization,  
2 excessive noise poses serious harm to human health and  
3 interferes with daily activities during school, work, home life,  
4 and leisure time; and

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6           WHEREAS, exposure to excessive noise may result in sleep  
7 disturbances, cardiovascular effects, hearing loss, other  
8 psychophysiological effects, reduced performance, annoyance, and  
9 changes in social behavior; and

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11           WHEREAS, residents of Ewa Beach have repeatedly raised  
12 concerns about the timing and levels of noise, including  
13 loudspeaker announcements and live gunfire, emanating from the  
14 Puuloa Rifle Range and Training Facility operated by the United  
15 States Marine Corps; and

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17           WHEREAS, minutes of Ewa Neighborhood Board meetings held in  
18 May, June, August, and September 2019 reflect numerous  
19 observations and concerns relating to noise from the rifle  
20 range, including:

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22           (1) Increased residential development that has resulted in  
23 a higher concentration of residents affected by  
24 excessive noise;

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26           (2) The lack of observed quiet hours at the Puuloa Rifle  
27 Range and Training Facility, compared to other  
28 military-operated rifle ranges on Oahu;



- 1 (3) Announcements made from the range's public address  
2 system that routinely commence before 7:00 a.m. and  
3 sometimes as early as 5:00 a.m.;
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- 5 (4) Live gunfire that sometimes commences as early as 6:00  
6 a.m. and continues into the evening hours;
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- 8 (5) Reports from area residents about noise that can be  
9 heard before 7:00 a.m., subsequent to the making of  
10 adjustments at the range;
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- 12 (6) A recent six-month closure of the range that resulted  
13 in heavier use upon re-opening, for purposes of re-  
14 certifying service members;
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- 16 (7) Further efforts by the Marine Corps to mitigate the  
17 noise, which include reducing the volume of the sound  
18 system; reducing the time spent on live firing, which  
19 runs from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and more recently,  
20 installing noise abatement equipment; and
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- 22 (8) Discussion among members of the Ewa Neighborhood Board  
23 on a proposed resolution and amended resolution, which  
24 ultimately went unadopted, relating to noise from the  
25 rifle range; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Legislature understands the importance of the  
28 Puuloa Rifle Range and Training Facility in relation to the  
29 United States Marine Corps' ability to conduct long-range rifle  
30 training, but also believes that it is reasonable to seek to  
31 balance military preparedness with maintaining a high quality of  
32 life for nearby community members; now, therefore,

33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States  
37 Marine Corps is urged to refrain from commencing live gunfire  
38 activities at Puuloa Rifle Range and Training Facility before  
39 10:00 a.m. daily, in order to help limit the neighboring  
40 community's exposure to loud and excessive noise; and

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# S.C.R. NO. 126

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Marine Corps  
2 is requested to work with any non-government entities allowed to  
3 use the rifle range, such as the Puuloa Rifle and Pistol Club,  
4 to ensure that uses of the range not involving military training  
5 also do not commence before 10:00 a.m.; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commanding Officer  
9 of the United States Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Noise Section  
10 Supervisor of the Department of Health, President of the Puuloa  
11 Rifle and Pistol Club, and Spokesperson of A Quieter Oahu.  
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OFFERED BY: *Kurt Ferella*

