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March 25, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.C.R. 90 / S.R. 69
REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADOPT RULES
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 91, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, TO REQUIRE
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF NOISE EMITTED BY THE
VEHICLE'S EXHAUST

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** these resolutions which requires vehicle inspections to assess the level of noise emitted by the vehicle's exhaust.

The DOT is concerned that adding decibel level testing to periodic motor vehicle inspections would increase the cost of the program to drivers, increase the requirements of testing beyond the capability of stations within the program, and will provide little benefit in the way of muffler noise reduction in the community.

The accurate measurement of motor vehicle exhaust sound level is a complex task that requires accurate measuring instruments, trained specialists, and a quiet, controlled environment. The tests are time consuming and not all vehicles can be tested in the same manner. An inaccurate test can cause a vehicle owner to spend money on a needless repair.

Motor vehicle manufacturers are required by the Environmental Protection Agency to build vehicles that emit no more than 87 decibels. Vehicles that emit greater noise have a worn-out muffler, an aftermarket muffler or no muffler. Vehicle owners who modify their vehicle to make more noise cause most of the exhaust noise problem. These vehicle owners can easily swap out the aftermarket muffler for a stock muffler to pass the periodic inspection. When the inspection is passed, the owners could go home and replace the stock muffler with the aftermarket muffler.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.