

BILL023(22)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 238

TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

TRANSPORTATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 14, 2022 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Johnnie-Mae Perry	Email: waianaenb569@gmail.com	Zip: 96792-2519
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 8, 2022 @ 09:36 PM

Testimony:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry strongly OPPOSE Bill 23 Collection Vehicles due to the lack of CDL drivers and changing their route time will impose the drivers' working condition STRESSFUL! I recommend Councilmember Say go on a "ride-along" to experience first-hand on what the drivers' daily route and working conditions is like! Traffic, pedestrians, a tight time schedule, etc. There's a shortage of CDL drivers, locally and nationally and without them NO GOODS are delivered, nor rubbish get picked up! CM Say do you prefer that the rubbish not get picked up? It is my understanding the new drivers quit before the end of their shift! Again, CM Say go on a ride-along, so you understand what a drivers' working conditions is like, including the resident who complaints about the early morning noise due to the rubbish pick up!

Name: Denise Boisvert	Email: infofordenise@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 12, 2022 @ 01:35 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, and thank you for this opportunity to testify on Bill 23.

Why do residents think Bill 23 is needed?

They wouldn't if each pickup didn't have SEVERAL LOUD BANGS of the bins to empty the garbage into the truck.

They wouldn't if the trucks' engines didn't produce ROARING, high-pitched, ear-piercing, whirring and wheezing noises.

They wouldn't if the drivers didn't rev the engines UNNECESSARILY loudly on their way to the next pickup.

And they especially wouldn't if all the above didn't happen in the MIDDLE of the night.

I don't see the garbage companies investing in quieter electric or hybrid trucks anytime soon so therefore I am compelled to support Bill 23.

Name: Kim Jorgensen	Email: hawaiicondo@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 12, 2022 @ 01:41 PM

Testimony:

I support Bill 23 because residents and tourists alike are at the mercy of loud, noisy, wheezing, squeaking, and banging garbage trucks. How often do they get tune-ups? Seems like never.

After banging garbage into the trucks, the drivers REV their loud scratchy engines to go even 20 feet to the next pickup. It makes one wonder about the excessive banging and revving - do the drivers enjoy knowing that they are waking up hundreds of people in the hotels and residential buildings above them?

Why can't the private garbage companies put more trucks in Waikiki at the same time so people won't have to listen for hours all night as the trucks get closer to their building? Several more trucks starting at 6:00 AM will get the garbage picked up quickly and more humanely for sleeping residents and tourists.

Name: Robert Finley	Email: bob2222@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Waikiki Neighborhood Board	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 13, 2022 @ 10:58 AM

Testimony:

I seem to be having computer problems this morning but the Waikiki Neighborhood Board supports the concept of Bill 23. The pick up of trash before 6am is a major concern of the board and our neighbors who are having sleep disturbed by the early morning back up beepers and crash of trash bins being dumped into trucks.

Name: Carlino Giampolo	Email: carlinog@hotmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 13, 2022 @ 11:25 AM

Testimony:

Bill 23 - A Sacred Journey

I strongly request there be no amendments to Bill 23.

Bill 23 is on a sacred journey on the Path of Dignity.

For any objections that may arise, you know what is necessary to keep Bill 23 on the Path of Dignity without any amendments:

- 1) A firm BELIEF that respect for human dignity must be the highest priority;
- 2) A deep COMPASSION for your constituents whose health is impacted by the actions of private refuse companies;
- 3) A strong DESIRE to protect residents from the abuse of way too early trash pickup times; and
- 4) A creative IMAGINATION to overcome any objections.

When the Navy kept bombing Kahoolawe, the Hawaiians said, "This land is sacred to us. The abuse of our land must end." The bombing ended with harm to none.

Today, we are saying, "Our dignity is sacred to us. The abuse of our dignity must end."

Bill 23 is on a sacred journey. Please move the bill forward with no amendments. There will be harm to none.

Name: Nancy Marker	Email: nmarker@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 13, 2022 @ 12:30 PM

Name: Georgette Silva	Email: g.silva@pineridgefarmsinc.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: West Oahu Aggregate Co Inc.	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 14, 2022 @ 07:37 AM

Testimony:

We oppose bill 23 because it will impact the collection of garbage in Waikiki. This bill will negatively impact the public because we will be trying to jockey our way through the already congested cars and buses on the street. It will also be unsafe for pedestrians that ignore traffic signals. The curious children that want to get up close to touch a garbage truck could be dangerously hit, backed over or sideswiped. The dangerous day conditions outweigh the work that we do early in the morning. Please consider the safety of our public and oppose this bill.

June 13, 2022

Re: Written testimony on Item #3 on Agenda for Transportation, Sustainability and Health Committee, June 14, 2022

RELATING TO PRIVATE REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES

Dear Chair Cordero and Members of the Committee:

I support Bill 23 that among other provisions would establish 6am as the earliest time for private refuse collection in areas zoned residential, apartment, or apartment mixed use.

In my densely populated residential Moiliili neighborhood, on Kuilei and Kahoaloha Streets, I've counted 15 trash collection times in a week, done by both the City and three private companies. If a person is home, as I was during the early days of the pandemic and many students, retirees, and parents with small children are daily, there is no way to hear or do anything else while the private companies load trash into their large trucks from the smaller trucks, sometimes taking ten minutes for each condo. The very loud noise rises up and rocks the neighborhood especially if it would be an otherwise rather quiet hour of the day. It's impossible to describe how harmful this noise and disturbance is for people at home. I've talked with neighbors and friends who are also tired from it, in every sense.

The City's collections for the small houses and apartments are twice a week and no earlier than 6am. For me, that's reasonable and they're singular trucks which come and leave rather quickly. Unlike the private trucks, they don't park with the large truck's engine running on the street, below our units, with the smaller one going back and forth to the condo, with banging of dumpsters, revving of engines, loud backup beeping, and banging of the mechanical parts that dump from the dumpster to the large truck.

These multiple companies collect for the condominiums on all different dates and at all different times. They come at hours that I've noted as early as 3:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning. For example, on most Sundays, the one company comes to the condo next door, parking directly below my lanai, at around 5am, operating for several minutes. I'm certain about the times as there's no way I can sleep through it and I've gone to my lanai to watch. It's most every Sunday that they come before 6am. That's simply too early for loud noises over a period of several minutes, causing harm to our health and well-being. We need our rest especially on weekends and holidays. With more people home during the pandemic, we've needed more peace and calm, not more stressors.

After inquiring with government officials about our options to limit collection times, it was suggested that I call the companies directly. Then I called the one company twice

about its pickup times. The responses reflected doubt and surprise that drivers would work that early and an offer to check with drivers. I have the theory that drivers like to get the runs to the refuse center finished as early as possible and on weekends that's easier due to less traffic on the roads.

I've been told that it may be difficult to change these pickup hours due to the H-POWER plant's employee hours. In your capacity, would you please inquire on the hours for delivery to H-POWER, in particular on Sundays and holidays? I'd like to know at what times personnel are available for refuse to be accepted and what reasons companies give for the very early collections. I believe more information is needed to understand what barriers stand in the way of altering the refuse collection times.

Yes, I understand that I live in a mixed housing neighborhood and we use many private companies, coming several times a week, in order to serve our trash collection needs. I've inquired about laws and regulations and believe that it's wrong that for public school properties, there can't be commercial refuse collections prior to 6am (*Noise Reference Manual, Oahu Edition*, July, 2017, p. 9) but for residences where people are sleeping, there are no restrictions.

I also support the revision to Section 9-2.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 that refuse collection trucks "must" have measures and equipment re: spillages and sanitation. Thank you for consideration of Bill 23. If passed, it would contribute greatly to our health and the lives of people in our residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marker