July 13, 2017

Via Email: brian.schatz@mail.house.gov

Via Email: mazie.hirono@mail.house.gov

Via Email: tulsi.gabbard@mail.house.gov

Via Email: colleen.hanabusa@mail.house.gov
dan.kouchi@mail.house.gov

Re: FAA Regulations Regarding Above-Land Tour Helicopter Flights Over Hawai‘i Island

Dear Senators and Representative,

On behalf of myself and the constituency of Council District 7 in Central Kona, we strongly urge you to request that the Federal Aviation Administration use its authority to regulate the operation of tour helicopters over and across Hawai‘i Island by implementing an offshore helicopter route.

It has been reported that there have been approximately 15,489 flights in 2016 for tours to the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, the most by far of any individual National Park in the Nation. That equates to 30,978 flights, to and from destinations that travel over and across the island, averaging approximately 85 flights per day. There are many other tour helicopter operations daily over Hawai‘i Island that are not included in that number.

The Federal Aviation Administration has the ability to implement an offshore helicopter route which is reported being used on another island to control and abate helicopter noise, which would protect the safety and well-being for all concerned.

Hawai‘i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.
Thank you in advance for taking this concern into consideration in regard to tour helicopter flights over Hawai‘i Island.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dru Kanuha
District 7 Council Member, Central Kona

DK/lw