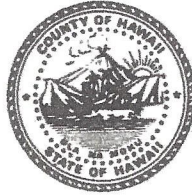


DRU MAMO KANUHA
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: dru.kanuha@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

July 13, 2017

Senator Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

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

Senator Mazie Hirono
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Representative Tulsi Gabbard
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Representative Colleen Hanabusa
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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.

Thank you in advance for taking this concern into consideration in regard to tour helicopter flights over Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dru Kanuha", written over a horizontal line.

Dru Kanuha
District 7 Council Member, Central Kona

DK/lw