



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD H.K. ONISHI; DISTRICT 3  
STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET; Room 441  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 20, 2017

Aloha Senators Hirono and Schatz and Representatives Gabbard and Hanabusa,

Over the past few years, I have been talking to the community and the industry in an attempt to find solutions to the tour helicopter noise issue. However, after a joint meeting held on March 29, 2016 with FAA, several Big Island state legislators and representatives from your offices, it was clear that any alternative flight patterns or solutions for the helicopter noise problem must originate with the FAA.

"The FAA has broad (sole) authority and responsibility to regulate the operation of aircraft...relieve and protect the public health and welfare from aircraft noise...shall prescribe regulations to control and abate aircraft noise."

The FAA has a method to do just that and they have implemented alternate flight patterns in other states, one of which is an offshore helicopter route.

The offshore route provides some benefits such as views of the beautiful coastline and better coastal weather rather than trying to fly in the cloudy and often rainy mountains as they do now. The offshore route could potentially eliminate or at least minimize the helicopter noise complaints. In other jurisdictions, helicopter noise complaints have resulted in reduction and/or threats of elimination of helicopter operations.

I would be supportive of alternative routes or any alternate plans which will address the noise issue affecting our Big Island communities

I look forward to working with you to provide the relief to our constituents that they so deserve,

Mahalo,

Richard H.K. Onishi  
Hawaii State House Representative, District 3