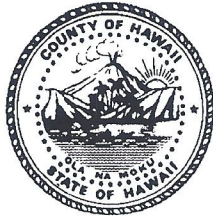


VALERIE T. POINDEXTER
Council Chairwoman & Presiding Officer
Council District 1



Phone: (808) 961-8828
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Email: Valerie.Poindexter@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

July 31, 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. 20510

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

Representative Colleen Hanabusa
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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 Representatives,

On behalf of myself and the constituency of Council District 1, 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.

I have received many calls over the past several years from constituents in District 1 that have been impacted by the overhead noise of tour helicopters flying inland and over their homes. The problem has intensified and is affecting more and more areas in Hawai'i County. It has been reported that there have been approximately 15,500 flights in 2016 for tours to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which surpasses all of the National Park in the Nation. That equates to 31,000 flights, to and from destinations, that travel over and across the island, averaging approximately 85 flights per day. There are other flights that are not accounted for and not included in this 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 protects individuals, businesses, ranch animals, domestic animals and other wildlife.

This offshore route would protect the safety and well-being for all concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter of our concerns regarding tour helicopter flights over Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie T. Poindexter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Valerie T. Poindexter
Council Chairwoman & District 1 Council Member