HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III  
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
District 9  
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

August 29, 2017

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 7-212  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96850  
www.schatz.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono  
United States Senate  
Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 3-106  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96850  
hawaiioffice@hirono.senate.gov

via email and hard copy transmission

RE: Hawai‘i Island Offshore Helicopter Route

Dear Senators Schatz and Hirono:

One of the common complaints that come into my Hawai‘i County Council office is that of deafening helicopter noise within the district I represent, District 9. The Hawai‘i County Council District 9 covers the following area: Mauna Lani Resort; Waikōloa Village; Puakō; Waiki‘i; portion of Kamuela, Pu‘ukapu Farms, Homestead and Village House lots; Lua‘a‘i; Pu‘uōpelu, Lalamilo, Wai‘aka, Kawaihae, Kohala Ranch, Mahukona, Hawi, Kapa‘au and Hala‘ula.

Although I encourage the viewing of our beautiful island by helicopter tours, which in turns adds to our island economy, it appears that there are opportunities for alternate offshore routes that would resolve these extensive complaints.
Your assistance is requested to communicate with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration and advocate on behalf of Hawaii Island to make certain that such offshore routes are implemented accordingly. There are other options available, including but not limited to decreasing the number of licenses allowed, entertaining other scheduling times, specifically limiting flying times, and other noise-reduction methods. However, it appears that specifically requiring offshore routes would be a win-win for all involved: better enjoyment of life by those living along the current deafening helicopter routes, as well as additional beauty to be seen by the patrons of the helicopter tour operators.

I appreciate your assistance and thank you for your time and consideration. Should you desire to discuss this matter with me further, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Mahalo and Aloha,

[Signature]

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III

TR: dbk
xc: HICOP