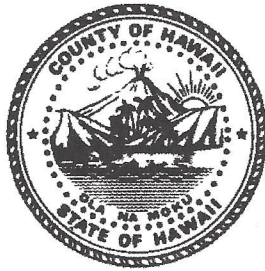


**JEN RUGGLES**  
Council Member  
District 5 – Puna Mauka,  
Pahoa Mauka, Kalapana



*Public Works & Parks and Recreation  
Committee Chair  
Public Safety & Mass Transit  
Committee Chair*

*Phone: 808-961-8263  
Fax: 808-961-8912  
Email: Jen.Ruggles@hawaiiicounty.gov*

*Hawai'i County Building  
25 Aupuni St. Suite 1402  
Hilo, HI 96720*

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

Senator Brian Shatz  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

6/28/17

Re: FAA Policy Request

Dear Senator Shatz,

In recent years commercial air tour flights over the residential areas in East Hawaii of the Big Island have reached an all-time high. Residents in Hamakua, Mountain View, Puna, Volcano, and Ka'u are among those most affected. In 2016, 15,489 overflights were reported for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, the most of any individual National Park in the nation. Including the roundtrip flight travel over residential neighborhoods, that is 30,978 overflights, averaging almost 85 per day. I have received many complaints from our constituents reporting loss of use and enjoyment of their properties due to noise of the helicopters travelling above their homes. Many report the helicopter overflights as frequent as every five minutes that can last an entire day. I am writing you to ask for your help in achieving balance between having a thriving tourism economy while allowing residents to enjoy the peace and quiet they deserve.

According to 14 CFR Part 93 "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."

In 2012 the FAA implemented a voluntary offshore policy for the North Shore of Long Island, NY. In 2014 it was made mandatory. The policy has proven to be successful for Long Island residents and the tour companies. I'm writing to specifically request you advocate for the FAA to implement similar protections for our Hawaii Island residents. An offshore route would provide much needed relief to fast growing residential population.


I look forward to working with you to provide the relief to our constituents that they so deserve. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [jen.ruggles@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:jen.ruggles@hawaiiicounty.gov) or call me at 808-961-8263.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen Ruggles".

*Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*

**Re: HICOP ( HAWAII ISLAND COALITION MALAMA PONO ) ASKS YOU TO PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE HAWAII ISLAND OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE ( HIOHR )**

**From :** Ruggles, Jennifer <Jen.Ruggles@hawaiicounty.gov> Wed, Jun 28, 2017 02:23 PM  
**Subject :** Re: HICOP ( HAWAII ISLAND COALITION MALAMA PONO ) ASKS YOU TO PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE HAWAII ISLAND OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE ( HIOHR )  1 attachment  
**To :** Bob Ernst <rce1@isp.com>

Aloha Bob,

I will be sending a copy of this to all our Federal senators and representatives. Thanks for all you do!

Take care,  
Jen

**From:** Bob Ernst <rce1@isp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** Ruggles, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: HICOP ( HAWAII ISLAND COALITION MALAMA PONO ) ASKS YOU TO PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE HAWAII ISLAND OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE ( HIOHR )

The rule actually went through three phases. First it was voluntary July 2012-July 2014. Then it was made mandatory July 2014-July 2016. Then it was extended again in July 2016 which is the current version. Hope that helps.

**From:** "jen ruggles" <Jen.Ruggles@hawaiicounty.gov>  
**To:** "Webmail rce1" <rce1@isp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 5:05:42 PM  
**Subject:** Re: HICOP ( HAWAII ISLAND COALITION MALAMA PONO ) ASKS YOU TO PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE HAWAII ISLAND OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE ( HIOHR )

Thank you Bob. Do you know when it was adopted?

**From:** Bob Ernst <rce1@isp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 4:18 PM  
**To:** Ruggles, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Re: HICOP ( HAWAII ISLAND COALITION MALAMA PONO ) ASKS YOU TO PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE HAWAII ISLAND OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ROUTE ( HIOHR )

Mahalo Jen,