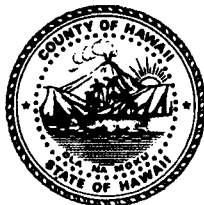


Aaron S. Y. Chung
Council Member
District 2 South Hilo



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

August 22, 2017

SENT VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 3-106
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
email - alan_yamamoto@hirono.senate.gov

The Honorable Brian E. Schatz
United States Senate
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 7-212
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
email - dale_hahn@schatz.senate.gov

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
The United States House Representatives
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 5-104
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
email - kainoa.penaroza@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
1132 Bishop St., Suite 1910
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
email - matthew.higa@mail.house.gov

Dear Senators Hirono and Schatz and Representatives Gabbard and Hanabusa:

Subject: Hawai'i Island Offshore Helicopter Route

Being a lifelong resident of Hilo, I can say this about the people of our town: they work hard, are thoughtful and, by and large, are a patient and tolerant bunch. However, helicopter noise has for many years been an issue which has tested the patience of many of our residents. My home happens to be directly under a tour helicopter route. The noise can at times be annoying, but it's nothing I can't handle. At the same time, though, I am aware of a large number of people that are impacted far more than me, and they have reached out to their government for help.

A group of concerned citizens calling themselves Hawai'i Island Coalition Malama Pono, or HICoP, has devoted itself to advocating to the Federal Aviation Administration for the requirement that tour helicopter companies take offshore helicopter routes to their destinations, in particular the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and they have asked elected officials on our island to support their cause. Now anyone who knows me will tell you that I am by nature very wary of populist movements. Therefore, whenever something resembles such a movement, I take pause. In this matter, I have given careful consideration to all of the information available to me on the issue and have concluded that the request by HICoP is reasonable and represents the best interests of the public. If approved and implemented, the measure will greatly improve the quality of life for many of our residents. Furthermore, while they may disagree with it now, the tour helicopter companies will also benefit from the new route requirement, inasmuch as it will eliminate the primary source of opposition to their operations. I endorse the request of HICoP and respectfully ask that you add my name to the list of other elected officials who have taken that position.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,



AARON S.Y. CHUNG
Hawai'i County Council Member
District 2, South Hilo