

Maile Medeiros David
Council District 6
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

11 July 2017

Via U.S. Mail and Email

Honorable Senator Mazie Hirono
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-106
Honolulu, HI 96850
mazie.hirono@mail.house.gov

Honorable Representative Tulsi Gabbard
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-104
Honolulu, HI 96850
tulsi.gabbard@mail.house.gov

Honorable Senator Brian Schatz
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 7-212
Honolulu, HI 96850
brian.schatz@mail.house.gov

Honorable Representative Colleen Hanabusa
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, HI 96813
colleen.hanabusa@mail.house.gov

Aloha Honorable Senators Hirono and Schatz
and Honorable Representatives Gabbard and Hanabusa:

Mahalo a nui loa for allowing me this opportunity to express my position regarding the establishment of an offshore helicopter route for Hawai'i island. I wholeheartedly support the ongoing efforts of the residents of Volcano and surrounding communities urging that the federal government establish a Hawai'i Island offshore helicopter route to address the ever-growing incessant and near constant noise from tour helicopters as they fly very low over residential areas at all hours of the day and evening.

Following a joint meeting with Federal Aviation Administration and National Park Service officials on March 30, 2017 in Hilo, Hawai'i, many citizens came forward to describe their experiences and expressed that for over thirty (30) years helicopter overflights in their communities have increased so drastically that it has had, and continues to have, a devastating impact upon their quality of life and right to peaceful and quiet enjoyment. It is my understanding that the Federal Aviation Administration has the broad and sole authority and responsibility to regulate the operation of aircraft. Therefore, I urge you to advocate for the citizens of Hawai'i island and request the FAA to control and abate the noise from these helicopter overflights and do the right thing to protect the public health and welfare.

Serving the Interests of the People of Our Island
Hawai'i County Is an Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer

Honorable Senator Mazie Hirono
Honorable Senator Brian Schatz
Honorable Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Honorable Representative Coleen Hanabusa
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In addition, and equally important to note, as a native Hawaiian with deep generational roots to Hawai'i island, I also am very concerned about the adverse impacts that these constant low flying helicopters impose upon our native birds and animals that dwell in the beautiful native forests of Volcano. I find it highly peculiar, for example, that while federal regulations exist to protect the endangered Nēnē that reside in this entire area, how are we not obligated to also protect our native birds and animals from the impacts of loud noises generated from low flying helicopters as well? If humans have been adversely impacted by this constant noise for decades, I fear to guess what impact this constant loud noise is having upon birds and animals that have exceptionally sensitive hearing, such as our native owl, the Pueo.

Mahalo a nui loa for allowing me the opportunity to express my concerns. I look forward to working with you in urging the FAA to establish a Hawai'i Island offshore helicopter route and provide much needed relief to our mutual constituents. It is also incumbent that we protect our native birds and animals who live within the confines of this beautiful natural forest and who cannot speak in their own defense. Much Aloha for your kokua.

Sincerely,



Maile David, Council Member
Council District 6

MD:dmm

cc: HICoP Board
Attention: Robert Ernst (rcel@isp.com)