



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 23, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
United States House of Representatives
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
United States House of Representatives
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Hawaii Island Offshore Helicopter Route

Aloha Senators Schatz and Hirono and Representatives Gabbard and Hanabusa,

As you are probably aware, the quality of life for many of our constituents on the Big Island of Hawaii has been severely negatively impacted by incessant tour helicopter noise. Complaints have increased significantly in recent years with more than 15,000 overflights in 2016 alone, averaging 85 flights per day bringing visitors to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which is one of the most visited national parks in the country.

The Federal Aviation Administration has authority to regulate the operation of helicopters. We urge you, as our congressional delegation, to work with the FAA on a solution, and would recommend including an offshore helicopter route rule such as that implemented over Long Island, New York.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Ruderman, Senator
District #2

Lorraine R. Inouye, Senator
District # 4