



REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

July 20, 2017

Senator Brian Schatz
300 Ala Moana Blvd., 7-212
Honolulu, HI 96850

Senator Maizie Hirono
300 Ala Moana Blvd., 3-106
Honolulu, HI 96850

Representative Tulsi Gabbard
300 Ala Moana Blvd., 5-104
Honolulu, HI 96850

Representative Colleen Hanabusa
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hawaii Island Offshore Helicopter Route

Dear Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono, Representative Gabbard and Representative Hanabusa,

Some Hawaii Island residents have expressed concerns about noise from helicopter tours. With an increase in tourism, and the current high level of activity at the volcano, helicopter tours are increasingly popular. Unfortunately, the noise from these helicopters is a disturbance to the neighborhoods they fly over.

I am writing to request your support in seeking a resolution to this issue. One possible resolution is to establish an offshore helicopter route that would reduce the noise residents experience when tour helicopters are in the area. This strategy has been successful in other states. For example, in 2012, the North Shore Helicopter Route was created in New York "to protect and enhance public welfare by maximizing utilization of an existing offshore route flown by helicopter traffic one mile off the north shore of Long Island". This Federal Aviation Administration rule, which was initially set to sunset in 2014, was recently extended until 2020. The extension of the rule indicates that the creation of the offshore route has been a success, and has helped to address the concerns of Long Island residents.

If feasible, please consider establishing a similar policy for Hawaii Island that would help to eliminate the helicopter noise complaints and allow Hawaii Island residents to enjoy their homes and property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole E. Lowen".

Representative Nicole Lowen
House District 6
Kailua-Kona, Holualoa, Kalaoa