



HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
District 9

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

August 29, 2017

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Hawai'i Congressional Delegation
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 7-212
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
www.schatz.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
Hawai'i Congressional Delegation
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 3-106
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
hawaiioffice@hirono.senate.gov

via email and hard copy transmission

RE: Hawai'i Island Offshore Helicopter Route

Dear Senators Schatz and Hirono:

One of the common complaints that come into my Hawai'i County Council office is that of deafening helicopter noise within the district I represent, District 9. The Hawai'i County Council District 9 covers the following area: Mauna Lani Resort; Waikōloa Village; Puakō; Waiki'i; portion of Kamuela, Pu'ukapu Farms, Homestead and Village House lots; Luala'i; Pu'uōpelu, Lalamilo, Wai'aka, Kawaihae, Kohala Ranch, Mahukona, Hawi, Kapa'au and Hala'ula.

Although I encourage the viewing of our beautiful island by helicopter tours, which in turns adds to our island economy, it appears that there are opportunities for alternate offshore routes that would resolve these extensive complaints.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
United States Senate
Hawai'i Congressional Delegation
August 29, 2017
Page 2

Your assistance is requested to communicate with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration and advocate on behalf of Hawai'i Island to make certain that such offshore routes are implemented accordingly. There are other options available, including but not limited to decreasing the number of licenses allowed, entertaining other scheduling times, specifically limiting flying times, and other noise-reduction methods. However, it appears that specifically requiring offshore routes would be a win-win for all involved; better enjoyment of life by those living along the current deafening helicopter routes, as well as additional beauty to be seen by the patrons of the helicopter tour operators.

I appreciate your assistance and thank you for your time and consideration. Should you desire to discuss this matter with me further, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Mahalo and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb M. Richards III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III

TR:dbk
xc: HICOP