

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2474
RELATING TO NOISE CONTROL**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 12, 2018
Time 1:20 pm

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure but defers
2 to the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

3 **Department Testimony:** This measure requires the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct a
4 study on the impacts of aviation noise on the residents in the Puna district and surrounding areas
5 of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and report its findings and recommendations, including
6 any proposed rule adoption and legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
7 the convening of the regular session of 2019.

8 The Governor and Legislature have already appropriated funds to the State Department of
9 Transportation (DOT) in Act 049 for the purpose of planning noise monitoring and noise
10 compatibility studies for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. While the Department of
11 Health (DOH) could provide a noise study of the area, we would be ill-equipped to adopt new
12 rules or recommend legislation to address aircraft noise because the regulation of Hawaii's
13 airspace in general, and the management of flight paths in particular, in addition to the noise of
14 an aircraft at its source, are governed exclusively by federal law (the Aviation Safety and Noise
15 Abatement Act of 1979) and are under the purview of the Federal Aviation Administration
16 (FAA). Consequently, any undertaking by DOH to regulate in these areas would be subject to

1 federal preemption and would likely be invalidated. In addition, the intent of HRS Chapter 342F
2 and HAR 11-46 was to regulate noise emanating from stationary equipment, and equipment
3 related to agricultural, construction, and industrial activities. These types of sources are either
4 fairly constant in it nature, stationary or restricted to a certain location. Finally, it is our
5 understanding that under certain circumstances the proprietor of an airport has some discretion to
6 address local concerns regarding aircraft noise without violating federal law. Therefore, we
7 suggest the Legislature continue working with DOT to explore ways in which DOT, as an airport
8 owner/operator, in concert with the FAA, may be able to address the concerns of the
9 communities impacted by aircraft noise.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 1, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard and Senator Baker:

Re: SB 2474 Aviation Noise in Around HVNP
Hearing Date: 02/12/18 – 1:20 pm; Conference Room 224

I support SB 2474, and thank you for giving it a hearing.

SB 2474 would require that the Department of Health conduct a study on the impact of aviation noise on residents of the Puna District and surrounding areas of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. It also appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Health to conduct the study.

I know that funding is tight, but this noise issue is one of the most vexing that we face. Helicopters have been a source of endless complaints from communities that lie in the flight path to HVNP, and there should be no doubt that noise can constitute both a nuisance and a health hazard, especially in otherwise tranquil rural areas.

Tour companies that bear the brunt of the public's ire could also benefit from such a study, if positive suggestions and/or compromises emerge from the study's findings.

I have met with tour operators and asked them to develop a plan to address noise issues. They have taken some initial steps, and I commend them for that. Moreover, I am hopeful that tour operators and community members can work together. Having the study called for in SB 2474 would be a positive way of moving the process forward.

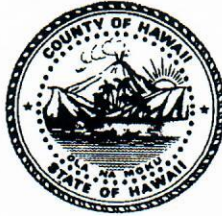
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



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Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii

Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate

February 2, 2018

Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2474, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by AEN on 02-12-18 1:20PM in conference room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2474, which requires the Department of Health to conduct a study on the impact of aviation noise on residents of the Puna district and surrounding areas of Hawai'i Volcanoes National park.

We need to consider appropriate routes for tour helicopters such that visitors can view our active volcanoes and wonderful waterfalls without chronic and incessant noise above residential neighborhoods. Please consider the impact the passing of this Bill will have on the health of our citizens, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 12:26:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| William Steiger | hicop.org | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for doing this study- it is really needed!

On Dec. 26, 2015 my life changed forever. Two hundred and fifty-four 254 helicopters (flightaware.com) flew over my house's 1 mile radius that day. Flightaware asked me if I lived near a major military base- I don't, I live in Mountain View on the Big Island.

FAA Inspector Joe Monfort (Honolulu FSDO) challenged to come up with a date and he would do radar flight logs. I chose 12-26-2015. He got the flight logs and told me 200 helicopters flew over my house between 10 am and 2 pm that day. That's about 1 per minute for four hours.

He said he had never seen anything like this in his 30 year career. Something broke in me that day. I thought it must have been an air traffic control mistake. Only after asking Senator Schatz for help did the FAA send out two Inspectors- Monfort and Reeves.to my house.

Inspector Monfort told me he would, "Go down to the Operators and slam these flight tracks on their desk and demand that this never happen again".

I was encouraged and hopeful that such a day would never happen to anyone again. Even though I used my POBox for a mailing address to file my complaint with the FAA, they sent a letter some 8 months later to my POBox claiming that they had sent it to my physical address and we don't get mail delivered here.

In this letter they dismissed my complaint as they could not detect any unsafe flying. Later at meetings with the FAA they stated that helicopters can fly as low and as often as they like over my home.

Inspector Monfort said that 50 of the two hundred that he tracked were below 500 feet AGL (above ground level) over my house. When they fly this low my whole house would shake and the windows would rattle. Couple of times even the roofing would flap. Phone conversations or listening to the tv or even just talking to my wife, you would have to pause to continue after they passed.

No one believed me and I was made out to be a liar and got into fights with loved ones and lost many friends over this. Inspector Monfort hung me out when I asked him about what he said and he said, " I can no longer recall saying anything".

I was very upset and this put me in therapy for the first time in my 61 years. Unfortunately the "Serenity Prayer" only worked a little for me. My Ohana bought this house as our forever house. We loved Hawaii when we bought. Unfortunately the over flights continued starting before 6 am.

I got PTSD from that day and now my ears were super sensitive to the noise these choppers make. I couldn't sleep in the early mornings –I couldn't nap either as the noise would just startle me awake. After working so hard my whole life I looked forward to a quiet and peaceful home and retirement and not waking up early. But that was not to be.

I decided to try to get some help and went to Gov. Ige's town hall in Hilo in Aug. 2016 and asked him point blank "Do you know about the helicopter noise problem here? He answered No. and then asked his staff if they knew of the problem and each one said No.

Fortunately I wasn't alone and hicop.org was born. We wrote, we pleaded, we begged, we asked all our Representatives to Help us! All of them said only the FAA controlled the airspace and until they offered change there was nothing they could do. We dreamed up solutions and never heard or received any solutions from the helicopter companies. In fact they said their \$96.88 a month fee for parking helicopters was something they would never give up.

We did rallies, did sign-ups at tables in front of stores etc. We were all amazed at the support people gave us. This is a very old simmering issue here. I put in 100's of unpaid hours.

So much stuff to do that I quit all my volunteer activities- President of the Puna Lions Club 2014-16, Project Hawaii for over 12 years, STEM teacher, benefactor at Pahoia Boys and Girls Club etc. (over 1500 volunteer hours in 2015- received numerous County, State, Federal awards) to concentrate on trying to get a quiet and peaceful home.

It was difficult being a STEM teacher and dealing with screaming keiki and then going home to what seemed like a war zone. I much rather be doing good than fighting bad!

I did a lot of research on the subject and was shocked to learn that this was nothing new. Patsy Mink fought this fight in the 1990s. I read her testimony from her proposed bill in 1994 and it is like reading exactly what's happening today.

Thousands of people have complained for more than 40 years and not much has changed. We started a change.org petition and it was like medicine to read the reasons

why 568 people signed the petition. Many have stated that they too were suffering negative health effects from all the noise.

<https://www.change.org/p/us-senator-schatz-and-hirono-and-us-representative-gabbard-and-hanabusa-require-hawaii-island-helicopter-air-tours-to-fly-offshore>

In 2017 hundreds of people wrote to the Hawaii State Health Dept. asking for help. Inspector Tomas seemed to know of how bad this situation could be on someone's health and tried to help us. After documenting over 120 letters to the Health dept., hicop.org got a letter from them saying they had no jurisdiction over these helicopters and to not contact them again. I was astonished! To survive bad situations –hope can be essential but they left us with no hope.

The whole situation has been hellish to me! I'm losing my nice guy persona. I'm working hard to prep my house for selling. We can't wait to get out of here- Gone will be my thousands of dollars of donations, thousands of volunteer hours, my acts of kindness, my willing to help others etc.

I have a new understanding of why so many people have checked out and why apathy is so widespread here. We watch as our Fed. Representatives meet with the helicopter companies many, many times- it's not difficult to understand who they are representing. It feels like the entire bureaucracy has fought us every inch of the way. This is not how a democracy should work.

We even found that the companies charged their passengers GET and Sales taxes. We found documents stating that they were exempt from paying this to the state. Even after notification this stealing goes on.

The FAA tells us that noise abatement technology is available but not in use here. Companies claim they can't afford the cost of gas to fly offshore. Air Methods which owns Blue Hawaiian Helicopters grossed \$450 million dollars in 2016.

We found on their permits that they were to avoid flying over Puna and residences. I live at 1500 feet and much of the time they fly under the clouds which are at about 2-2500 feet. According to FAA's Hawaii Air Tour Common Procedure Manual they should always be at a minimum 1500' AGL. But if that's never enforced why do claim this is a regulation?

This place has made me sick and I hope to regain my health when we move back to civilization. I feel like I have suffered thru 3-4 hellish lifetimes of over flights.

Mahalo for your efforts and Please help us if you can! Please call or write if I can be of any further assistance.

William "Storm" Steiger

808-937-3906

POBox 711561

Mountain View HI 96771

16-2161 Uhini Ana Road or Road 1 Mountain View HI

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:00:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gary S. Harrold | Gary's Gorgeous Organics | Support | No |

Comments:

Hawaii Island residents who are immune system compromised, who may need to sleep during the day, who have sensitive hearing and reactive, fragile nervous systems LOATHE helicopter noise. Thousands of flyovers per year is unacceptable; one is unacceptable. National parks are supposed to be havens for solace. Everyone wants to hear the birds more than helicopter noise. Air tour choppers should fly 1000' offshore and 1000' in elevation. Not over land. {Honestly they should go out of business!} Gary Harrold 11 Ala Muku St. Hilo

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 10:20:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Daryl Soares | HICoP | Support | No |

Comments:

THE HAWAII VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK IS THE MOST OVER FLOWN NATIONAL PARK IN THE COUNTRY WITH AN AVERAGE OF 80 FLIGHTS DAILY IN AND OUT OF THE PARK. 17 YEARS AGO, A FEDERAL LAW, REQUIRED ALL FEDERAL PARKS TO DEVELOP AN AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT PLAN. ONE WAS NEVER DONE BY HVNP.

THE FAA IS AN 800LB GORILLA WHO'S REGULATIONS APPEAR TO BE INFLUENCED BY THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY. ALTHOUGH, THEY CONTROL THE AIR SPACE THEY TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NOISE POLLUTION THEY CREATE. FOR YEARS THE FAA HAS TOLD HAWAI'I RESIDENTS THEY DO NOT REGULATE "NOISE." IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN WHO DOES?

FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS, WITH NO AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE AIR TOUR OPERATORS HAVE ASSIGNED THEIR "QUALITY OF LIFE STANDARD" TO HAWAI'I RESIDENTS. THEY CONTINUE TO LOBBY FOR NO REGULATIONS AND OPERATE PRETTY MUCH AS THEY PLEASE. WITH NO SET ROUTES OR ENFORCEABLE HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS. THEY FLY OVER RESIDENTIAL HOMES RELENTLESSLY, MANY EXPERIENCE OVER 100 FLIGHTS DAILY WITH NO RECOURSE.

EVERY NIGHT, JUST BEFORE I FALL ASLEEP, ALL I HEAR IS THE WHINE OF THE MD500 IN MY HEAD BECAUSE THEY FLY SO LOW AND ARE SO LOAD OVER US ALL DAY LONG.

AIR TOUR OPERATORS TELL RESIDENTS "*THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO FLY OVER OUR HOMES AS MANY TIMES AS THEY LIKE.*" THEY STATE: "*WE ARE DOING NOTHING ILLEGAL.*"

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO GET INVOLVED AND WORK WITH THE FAA AND THE NPS TO ADDRESS THE RELENTLESS NOISE POLLUTION, AIR POLLUTION TO OUR DRINKING WATER, AND THE HEATH AND WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS ON HAWAI'I ISLAND. THANK YOU.

SINCERELY: DARYL SOARES

EMAIL: DARYL@HICOP.ORG

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:09:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Choon James | CountryTalkStory.com | Support | No |

Comments:

SUPPORT SB2474

ALOHA,

This is a problem not only to the residents of Puna, it's increasing a problem to all of the Hawaiian Islands. We have increasing problems on the North Shore and Windward of Oahu. As the State continues to market for more tourists, there appears to be zero concern for the quality of life impacts on the local residents.

Tourist attractions such as helicopters have increased. We're not against business making money but the helicopter tours need to understand that their noise is exposing other local residents to continuous and cumulative negative impacts.

For a tourist, it's just one tour for them. For the local residents, it's the exposure to continuous and cumulative tours. The residents suffer while the tour operators profit, at the expense of the quality of life - the peace and quiet of one's own home,

This needs to be corrected.

Mahalo,

Choon James

2939111

ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 12:19:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aaron Mitchell | | Support | No |

Comments:

The constant low flyovers by tourism helicopters needs to be examined and regulated. The general citizenry is at the mercy of this industry and we are asking for more eyes on this problem. Lost sleep, scared kids, scared livestock, medical issues, all need to be addressed. Mahalo for your attention and compassion in this matter.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 1:18:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| elizabeth hansen | | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Senators - although I live outside the area noted in the bill- I still realize the significant impact of helicopter noise pollution. We need to address this issue.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 3:28:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chris Madsen | | Support | No |

Comments:

Being constantly harassed by helicopters and the sounds of war really does bring out PTSD. They fly very low usually around 200 ft and fly directly over people and structures. They don't care one bit about anyone else. I know I see them through my skylights.

When I went to real estate school in Hawaii I was taught that landowners have the right to peaceful, private, and quiet enjoyment of their land. I was also taught that that individual owners own the air rights to the space immediately above their land. It sure seems that flying at 200 ft sometimes every 5 minutes clearly violates that. It sure would in some "luxury neighborhood". Those rights apply to all real estate in the State of Hawaii regardless of wealth.

What they are doing is systematic theft by violating people's air rights and their right to a quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their real estate. Let's be clear this is all about money and greedy operators wanting to harass, steal, and invade privacy of the residents of Puna in the name of larger and larger profits.

I'm actually surprised no one has gotten violent with the tour operators yet. It would only be logical that being subjected to war-like conditions constantly could cause people to be pushed over the edge. Also, not uncommon for people pushed over the edge to act out in justifiable fits of rage.

I personally think that after harassing and take, take, taking for decades they should be forced to pay restitution. Even if that is in the form of a scholarship endowment to the local area schools affected by these companies. Then for ONCE after decades of operating with an illegal business model something positive will come from these unnecessary tours.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 6:04:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lee Eisenstein | | Support | No |

Comments:

These helicopters are abusing the neighborhoods they fly over, with their noise. Puna is rapidly growing as a residential/agricultural area and this must be respected, not spoiled with aircraft noise and industrialization.

Along with the monstrous idea of expanding the already wildly inappropriate presence of that geo-thermal plant, (right in the middle of people's neighborhoods), both these represent an assault on the areas residents and are a detriment to the areas future.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 12:00:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stephany Cecil | | Support | Yes |

Comments:

The amount of noise pollution from the helicopter tour companies is having a serious adverse effect on my family's health and well-being. This has become an extreme nuisance and needs to be monitored and controlled for the benefit of all local residents.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:51:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kat Culina | | Support | No |

Comments:

Find me a person that enjoys helicopter noise above their house...

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:53:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Marion McHenry | | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill, we could use a study on Noise on my island of Kauai also.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 1:38:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Julia Contreras | | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the exploration of the issue and the desire to find solutions, if this is a real search for solutions that respects the tax-paying residents of Hawaii Island. However, if this is just another method to delay really addressing and working on the issue so that the tour companies can continue to fly over residences with excuses, then I do not support that process. The issue continues to be that the tour companies ARE NOT seeking solutions that work for the residents - just what works for their pocket books! I live in Fern Forest/South Glenwood. I am on the way to Pu'u O'o and I have had dozens of helicopters flying over my property daily. I have noticed a deduction in the amount of flights since Mayor Kim held meetings to discuss this issue with the tour companies, and they agreed to distribute the flights more evenly. However, I still experience lots of low-flying helicopters over my property to the point that it has taken away from my enjoyment of my property because of the barrage of noises from the helicopters. I advocate that these helicopters be required to follow the laws that were established 18 years ago that support Hawaii Island being a noise-free zone. I am angered and stressed from dealing with the rudeness of the pilots that insist on flying low over my property! I do not believe the reduction in flights recently is anything but to deter our voices of protest and when the tour companies think we are sated, will once again fly low and often! But please hear me even 1 helicopter flying overhead is enough to cause me stress and anger - right now I have dozens of copters flying over versus what used to be about 100 a day! This has caused me considerable stress and threatens the sanctity of my environment for my family, plants and animals inhabiting the land with me. I do not know why the tour companies think it is just fine to disrespect the tax-paying residents that live on the Island with our need for peace and serenity on our own land that we worked hard all our lives to obtain. We are not asking for the tour companies to dissolve; just upgrade their equipment - funded by the huge profits made - so the helicopters can fly offshore and offer us as residents, the respect we deserve!

The last thing I want to mention is the safety concerns. Often in very inclement weather - even in thunderstorms and flash flooding conditions, the helicopters continue to fly over our property. They fly very low to avoid the clouds. This is absolutely a safety concern that they continue to fly in severe weather. I have

asked several times, will it take a crash for safety standards to be upheld. The four companies need to stop flying in severe weather conditions!

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:29:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Martinez | | Support | No |

Comments:

As a homeowner and resident of Ainaloa, it has become evident that the helicopter pilots flying over Puna choose to disturb the peace of their community rather than to increase fares to cover the cost of flying over the ocean. To that end, I would support a very substantial fee on helicopter tour companies to operate their businesses in Hawaii. Money is the only thing that seems to remedy a cause and the funds could be used towards environmental protection projects. Don't give them an option; it's the cost of doing an air tour business in Hawaii. Mahalo!

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:12:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Susan Bambara | | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for your support of this Bill.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:43:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph | | Support | No |

Comments:

Strongly Support! Please give residents in these flight paths some relief! They are constantly bombarded all day long with non-stop noise. Let's find out exactly what they have to put up with. Please pass this bill!

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:23:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Richard Davis | | Support | No |

Comments:

This not only needs to pass but to be followed up on with regards to our privacy and the noise that is destroying our peace, driving our animals crazy and frightening them to death. There is no valid reason they cannot be forced to fly OUT OVER THE OCEAN where no one lives.

Many of us have been out here for decades dealing with the unwanted noise. Have them fly around the hotels, and see how full they stay.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Richard Davis, PhD.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:48:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Herbert K. Vioria | | Support | No |

Comments:

Helicopters should find a different path rather than flying over residential areas

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 8:33:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| James Long | | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 8:35:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary True | | Support | No |

Comments:

It is miserable that island residents have to have the peace of their homes destroyed in the name of tourism. The constant sound of helicopters turns paradise into hell. Also, they ignore height requirements and fly too low with no regard for the laws which are already in place.. These laws need to be enforced for the peace of mind of our islanders.

February 9, 2018 – Puna, HI

Dear Supporters of quelling outrageous Helicopter Noise Pollution in Hawai'i,

Hawai'i can be an amazingly beautiful and peaceful place. The calm serenity that we've all come to associate with this mid-Pacific archipelago, whether from magazine photographs, television, or personal experience, is under attack from above. Air tour companies are taking advantage of travel routes to and from their private airfields, and crossing residential subdivisions throughout the Islands, enroute to the next scenic destination, resulting in excessive noise pollution for those who live here.

Not only does the noise pollution from overhead helicopters significantly reduce the level of enjoyment residents may otherwise experience in their own backyards, it also has wide ranging health effects that are just now coming to public light. Exposure to noise causes physiological activation such as increased heart rate and blood pressure, peripheral vasoconstriction and increased peripheral vascular resistance. Studies have found higher blood pressure in kids due to the impact of aircraft noise. A 1995 German study found a link between chronic noise exposure and elevated nervous system activity and cardiovascular levels in children. And a 2005 study published in the prestigious British medical journal, The Lancet, found that kids living near airports in Britain, Holland and Spain lagged behind their classmates in reading by two months for every five decibel increase above average noise levels in their surroundings. The study also associated aircraft noise with lowered reading comprehension, even after socio-economic differences were considered.

As a lifetime nature lover who tries to appreciate and share the many bounties our world has to offer whenever possible, I rejoice when Nature reaps a rare victory, such as the ban of Helicopters over Machu Picchu, where the noise of the propellers affected local wildlife. (Hats off to the regional government, who stated: "When a country accepts that one of its areas is declared a cultural or natural heritage site it assumes the responsibility to preserve it, that's why commercial flights to Machu Picchu should be prohibited." Take note, Hawai'i.)

Crater Lake, one of the scenic wonders of the world, has just recently implemented a ban on tour helicopters. To quote: "...a first step in keeping our national parks free of noise pollution that can ruin visitors' experience".

Further, witness this attempt on a ban on Brooklyn tourist flights (as always, the issue is noise...): "It's time to stop the never-ending parade of tourist flights from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport. Chopper tours can't come at the expense of our neighborhoods' quality of life."

In EVERY instance of resistance to air tours, noise is the issue. If we can ban helicopters over National Parks, over Cities, over scenic wonders of the world, why should we suffer through this debilitating audio barrage in our own residences???

In the case of Hawai'i there are now a multitude of air tour companies (including small airplanes) all vying for airspace over our houses. A quick google.com search on 'Hawaii tour helicopters' will bring up the top listings, with all of those companies in regular violation of the Federal

Aviation Administration laws for air tours in the area. These laws are outlined specifically in the Hawai'i Air tour Common Procedures Manual. Over residential areas (in East Hawai'i on the Big Island, for example), Above Ground Level (AGL) is usually violated, sometimes to the extreme, and despite the FAA implementation of a "no fly" areas, that rule is also rarely followed.

In addition, if a helicopter should ever crash (yes, it does happen) in a residential area, the potential loss of human life far outweighs the price of respectful flying.

We residents of Hawai'i need to make a stand.

Our peaceful lifestyle and well being are at stake. With so much pollution of every type worldwide, everywhere we go, the least we can do as residents is demand that our homes not be invaded by the constant thunder of another tourist helicopter heading somewhere. If these air tour companies really care about the Aina and the people who live here, they could take a different approach to sharing aloha with visitors, instead of defaulting to the bottom line - the almighty dollar - at the cost of peace, privacy, and health among the local population.

We Must Demand:

- Removal of ALL aircraft flight paths from above ALL sub-division Communities, including (but not limited to) Hawaiian Paradise Park, Hawaiian Beaches, Hawaiian Acres, Orchidland Estates, and everything in the geographic proximity to Hawaii Volcano National Park.

- Demand that Weather Enhanced crossing violations over non-community areas be strictly enforced immediately over East Hawai'i, and all other Islands.

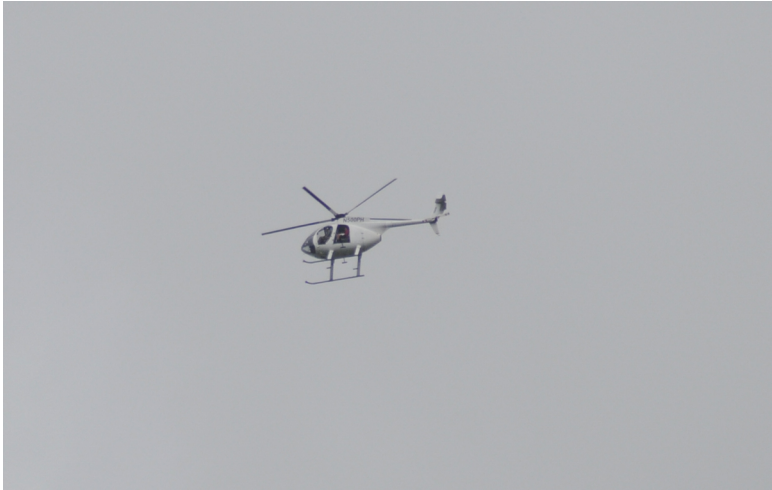
- Demand that Air Tour Companies that have WAIVERS on the above laws have such waivers revoked immediately, for all Islands.

And obviously, let's get this noise pollution study COMPLETED, as at least a starting point to gaining back peace and quiet in our own backyards...

Regards,

— Brent Magstadt, Puna District Resident





SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 11:22:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nicole Albright | | Support | No |

Comments:

TESTIMONY SB 2474

I am in STRONG support of SB 2474. I live just outside of Pahoa and many days I experience 50-100 LOUD and disturbing overflights in the supposed peace of my own home. This amounts to constant noise ALL DAY LONG with no breaks in between. There is no time to gather my thoughts, to come to peace or to hear the birds. This noise pollution is often VERY LOUD and the frequency of this disturbance I find very jarring. I am woken from sleep regularly on weekends as early as 6:40am. Family members have to raise their voices or shout to be heard, causing an elevated atmosphere at home. Nerves are on edge and family members are short with each other. I find myself feeling frustrated, angry, sad, trapped in my own home, like a caged animal. My children become more hyperactive as everyone competes to be heard. We try to go inside, shut the windows and doors, yet helicopters can still be heard – and the vibrations felt, and it is warm in our house with no breeze. The only escape is to get in the car and leave. Many days I do not have this option as I work from Home. Puna is a district where not many places of “employment” exist. As such MANY people work from home. Childcare centers, schools, aged care, massage studios, many industries are established within the neighborhoods of Puna and all are subjected to what can only be described as industrial noise standards, in a residential and semi-rural environment.

I also feel anxiety when driving up the hill to return home about the noise I am about to endure. I experience lack of sleep and inability to turn off due to this high level of stress. This in turn causes me to be tired in the day, with red eyes (my pterygiums become enflamed) and headaches. I am not a “highly strung” person by nature. I give massages and teach Yoga. I exist in a peaceful environment, and yet I am stressed out by these environmental noise stressors in my own home and my health suffers. My son finds it very hard to concentrate on homework when he is being buzzed by helicopters every 2 minutes. His train of thought on complex problems is completely broken. There are many families with young children in my neighborhood.

I have spoken to my Primary Care Physician about the stress this noise pollution is causing me and my family. I have been referred to a behavioral health specialist to see what might help.

Studies on noise are plentiful, though none has been undertaken in the PUNA district, which is why I support this bill. HICOP.org is a non-profit group which was started to work with all the parties to formulate a solution. Over the course of a year and a half, hundreds and hundreds of residents from the Big Island, Oahu, Maui, and Kauai have joined up, submitted testimony about the effects of helicopter noise pollution on their health. A petition was opened on change.org and I strongly recommend legislators look at this petition as a part of their consideration of testimony on this issue. While many will not get the chance to testify on SB 2474, testimony already exists that MUST be considered to truly represent the people of Puna. Here is a site link with public comment:

https://www.change.org/p/us-senator-schatz-and-hirono-and-us-representative-gabbard-and-hanabusa-require-hawaii-island-helicopter-air-tours-to-fly-offshore/w?source_location=petition_nav

Please authorize this study by the Department of Health. Please include the residents in this process and Please then act on its findings by mandating helicopters to fly in places where people do not live.

Thank You – Nicole Albright

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 7:50:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| keomailani von gogh | | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I live in Aloha Estates in Ola'a on the Big Island. We are constantly bombarded by the low flying helicopters that go directly over our subdivision. I chose to sit outside in the mornings when sunny and enjoy the birds, trees, and forest. The sound of the low flying helicopters going to see the volcano make that hard and impedes my spiritual practice as well. **I support SB2474.**

Also, I would like to suggest that the helicopters fly along the coast to go see the volcano.

Mahalo for your time,

Keomailani Von Gogh

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 10:00:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sharon Lee | | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

The tour helicopter companies have taken advantage of the current situation within the state, and in particular the Department of Health, in that there is excessive noise pollution because they can fly over residents as often as they book flights. For me that equates to 10 plus per hour per day equating 100 incidents of noise pollution, and often in excess of this number. This continues day after day after day and seriously effects my health and welfare and the degradation of the environment.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 1:41:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Randall Albright | | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support a health study on helicopter noise in Puna. This is a quiet semi-rural area where many keiki and kupuna live. Our right to the peaceful pursuit of happiness is being taken by helicopter companies in the name of profit. No one wishes to address this problem or create a remedy. Please mandate the Health Department to act on behalf of residents who are suffering this noise pollution and nuisance every day in Puna. Constant noise pollution is NOT healthy for people and other living things.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:41:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Scott Garris | Self | Support | No |

Comments:

Ocean routes should be used to reduce noise pollution.

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 11:49:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| A Kathleen Lee | | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

We individuals who choose to live in this great state and for the cost of living here, do so with the understanding that the beauty of our life will make up for some of the Financial hardship endured. Please review the level of dB these aircraft produce, by undertaking these studies.

Mahalo for your support by approving this bill,

April Lee

SB-2474

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:25:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2018 1:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Carlton York | | Support | No |

Comments:

Strong Support - Ocean routes could be used to minimize the impact on residents !