
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTION
REGARDING COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER TOUR OPERATIONS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours are a popular visitor
2 activity in Hawaii that have been successful for some private
3 companies; and
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5 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours have however become a
6 bane to many residents of areas over which the tours fly, as the
7 lack of regulation and the lucrative nature of the tours have
8 created a "wild west" in the sky; and
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10 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours focusing on the
11 natural scenery of the coastlines, mountains, and national parks
12 fly over the same areas and neighborhoods on a daily basis, to
13 the detriment of residents and visitors below, who experience
14 constant helicopter noise; and
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16 WHEREAS, due to the distress and disruption caused by
17 chronic helicopter noise, the noise has become a public health
18 concern; and
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20 WHEREAS, comprehensive regulation of these helicopters and
21 the enforcement of those regulations are necessary; and
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23 WHEREAS, although helicopters are required to maintain a
24 minimum flight altitude of one thousand five hundred feet, it
25 appears that many tour companies ignore this requirement; and
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27 WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to increase the minimum
28 flight altitude to two thousand five hundred feet when flying
29 above residences, and to five thousand feet when flying above
30 national park land; and
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1 WHEREAS, tour helicopters should be required to avoid
2 residences and use offshore routes whenever possible; and

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4 WHEREAS, air tour management plans for national parks
5 should be created, pursuant to the National Parks Air Tour
6 Management Act of 2000; and

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8 WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to impose tiered penalties
9 on and revoke flying privileges from repeat violators of
10 aircraft regulations; and

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12 WHEREAS, flight pattern regulations, elevation regulations,
13 and air tour management plans for national parks are under the
14 jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration; now,
15 therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
19 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Federal Aviation
20 Administration is urged to more aggressively enforce existing
21 laws against commercial tour operators in the State; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Aviation
24 Administration is urged to increase minimum flight altitudes for
25 tour helicopters, mandate offshore tour aircraft routes when
26 appropriate, and create air tour management plans for national
27 parks in Hawaii; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the
31 Federal Aviation Administration, Director of the Hawaii
32 Department of Transportation, and members of Hawaii's
33 congressional delegation.

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36 OFFERED BY:

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JAN 21 2020

