

JAN 27 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HELICOPTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that helicopter crashes
2 and resulting deaths continue to be a matter of public concern
3 in Hawaii. There have been at least eighteen civilian
4 helicopter crashes in Hawaii since 2015, occurring on Oahu,
5 Hawaii island, Kauai, and Molokai.

6 Hawaii residents are not only concerned with the dangers
7 associated with helicopter crashes, such as the December 2019
8 crash on Kauai or the April 2019 crash on a residential street
9 in Kailua, but also with issues related to helicopter noise,
10 frequency, and altitude. These concerns related to helicopters
11 in Hawaii remain largely unresolved. The legislature believes
12 that requiring commercial helicopter owners and operators to
13 record basic details of helicopter flights will help provide
14 necessary information to stakeholders and community members in
15 order to find a meaningful resolution to this area of concern.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require
17 commercial helicopter owners and operators to:



- 1 (1) Record and retain monthly reports that contain basic
- 2 helicopter flight information; and
- 3 (2) Make the records available to the department of
- 4 transportation and the public upon request.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 **"§261- Reporting of commercial helicopter flights. (a)**

9 For each helicopter subject to this chapter, the owner or
10 operator of that helicopter shall maintain records to be made
11 available to the department or the public upon request that
12 include details of each flight the helicopter made for
13 commercial purposes during the preceding calendar month.

14 (b) The report shall include, regarding each flight made
15 for commercial purposes:

- 16 (1) The date and time that the helicopter took off and
- 17 landed;
- 18 (2) The number of individuals in the helicopter during the
- 19 flight;
- 20 (3) The flight path, including altitudes, from take-off
- 21 through landing; and



1 (4) Whether the helicopter deviated from its flight plan,
2 including an explanation for the deviation.

3 (c) The records required pursuant to this section shall be
4 maintained for a period of ten years."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1403

Report Title:

Helicopters; Commercial Flights; Records; DOT

Description:

Requires commercial helicopter owners and operators to retain and make available records containing basic helicopter flight information.

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