

MAR 07 2025

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE SUMMARIZING SPECIFIC SAFETY-RELATED INFORMATION FOR EACH GENERAL AVIATION AND COMMERCIAL TOUR OPERATOR IN THE STATE, POST AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF EACH REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE, AND ADOPT RULES REQUIRING THE PUBLIC POSTING OF THE INFORMATION AT EVERY LOCATION OF EACH OPERATOR.

1           WHEREAS, general aviation and commercial helicopter flights  
2 are popular activities in Hawaii that have been economically  
3 successful for some private companies; and  
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5           WHEREAS, general aviation and commercial helicopter flights  
6 over residential areas can create safety hazards, such as the  
7 2019 crash on a street in Kailua on Oahu that resulted in three  
8 deaths, the risk of which may be increased in the absence of  
9 currently available safety practices and mechanisms; and  
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11           WHEREAS, following the 2019 crash in Kailua, the Chair of  
12 the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated that  
13 "each crash underscores the urgency of improving the safety of  
14 charter flights by implementing existing [board] safety  
15 recommendations," and called for small aircraft flight safety  
16 improvements; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, NTSB has made repeated recommendations for safety  
19 enhancements in the helicopter tour and charter industry,  
20 including the use of crash-resistant fuel systems, flotation  
21 devices for flights over water, and terrain awareness and  
22 warning systems to reduce the risk of controlled flight into  
23 terrain; and  
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25           WHEREAS, the implementation of safety measures such as  
26 crash-resistant fuel tanks can significantly reduce the risk of  
27 post-crash fires, a factor that has contributed to fatalities in  
28 multiple aviation accidents; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, helicopters operating in the State frequently fly  
3 over the ocean and remote terrain where emergency landings may  
4 be required, and the presence of emergency flotation devices are  
5 a critical factor in survivability in the event of an unplanned  
6 water landing; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, radar and terrain awareness technology have proven  
9 effective in enhancing pilot situational awareness and reducing  
10 the likelihood of accidents caused by poor visibility, weather  
11 conditions, or pilot disorientation; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, ensuring public access to safety-related  
14 information regarding the presence or absence of flotation  
15 devices, radar technology, and crash-resistant fuel tanks in  
16 helicopters used for commercial and general aviation flights  
17 would empower consumers and the public to make informed  
18 decisions regarding their safety; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, increased transparency in the aviation industry  
21 would encourage helicopter tour operators and charter companies  
22 to adopt best practices in aviation safety, thereby reducing  
23 risks to passengers, crew, and the public at large; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, providing detailed safety information aligns with  
26 broader efforts to enhance consumer protections and uphold the  
27 State's commitment to safeguarding its residents and visitors  
28 from avoidable risks; now, therefore,

29  
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the  
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
33 Transportation is requested to submit an annual report to the  
34 Legislature summarizing specific safety-related information for  
35 each general aviation and commercial tour operator in the State,  
36 post an electronic copy of each report on the Department's  
37 website, and adopt rules requiring the public posting of the  
38 information at every location of each operator; and

39  
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to  
41 include the:



- 1           (1) Name of any person, whether an individual or legal  
2           entity, who has twenty percent or more ownership  
3           interest in every general aviation, helicopter tour,  
4           or charter flight operator, and the name of any  
5           general aviation or commercial tour operator company  
6           owned by the person within the last ten years;  
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- 8           (2) Amount and type of liability insurance maintained by  
9           each general aviation and commercial tour operator;  
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- 11          (3) Minimum amount of pilot training hours required by  
12          each general aviation and commercial tour operator;  
13          and  
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- 15          (4) Participation of each company in any nationally  
16          recognized safety program, such as the Tour Operators  
17          Program of Safety, which develops air tour safety  
18          standards; and  
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20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for each aircraft operated in  
21   the State, the Department of Transportation is requested to  
22   report the type and amount of general liability insurance  
23   carried by the operator and whether each aircraft has installed:  
24

- 25          (1) Flotation devices;  
26
- 27          (2) Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast technology;  
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- 29          (3) Crash resistant tanks; and  
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- 31          (4) Any other provisions as determined by the department  
32          as necessary or advisable to promote public safety and  
33          consumer disclosure; and  
34

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each annual report is requested  
36   to be made available to the public via electronic posting on the  
37   Department of Transportation's website; and  
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39           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
40   Transportation is requested to require each general aviation and  
41   commercial tour operator to publicly post in each of their



1 places of business a summary of the information provided in each  
2 report; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
6 National Transportation Safety Board and Director of  
7 Transportation.

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OFFERED BY:

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