

MAR 07 2025

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



- (1) Name of any person, whether an individual or legal entity, who has twenty percent or more ownership interest in every general aviation, helicopter tour, or charter flight operator, and the name of any general aviation or commercial tour operator company owned by the person within the last ten years;
- (2) Amount and type of liability insurance maintained by each general aviation and commercial tour operator;
- (3) Minimum amount of pilot training hours required by each general aviation and commercial tour operator; and
- (4) Participation of each company in any nationally recognized safety program, such as the Tour Operators Program of Safety, which develops air tour safety standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for each aircraft operated in the State, the Department of Transportation is requested to report the type and amount of general liability insurance carried by the operator and whether each aircraft has installed:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each annual report is requested to be made available to the public via electronic posting on the Department of Transportation's website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to require each general aviation and 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Clem", written over a horizontal line.