

To Whom It May Concern:

I am adamantly opposed to tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas. I find it tremendously repugnant to be out hiking and hear the drone of a helicopter flying overhead. The noise obliterates the peace and quiet I hope to find when I make the effort to hike in a state or national park or wilderness area.

Please increase the current minimum altitude, eliminate exemptions from the altitude rule, and let state and National Park Service restrict tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas.

In addition to my complaints, I understand that research demonstrates noise from air tours can be fatal for Hawaii's forest birds. Repeated disruptions interrupt courtship and mating activities, nest-building, and searching for food, leading to higher mortality rates or abandonment of habitat.

In conclusion, increasing the current minimum altitude, eliminating exemptions from the altitude rule, and allowing state and National Park Service restrict tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas will:

- * Save lives due to a higher minimum altitude;
- * decrease constant noise has been shown to adversely impact human health;
- * Harm less Hawaii's wildlife--especially forest birds--are negatively affected by overflight disruptions, from mating problems to abandonment of nests;
- * Decrease the constant noise in state and national parks can ruin the wilderness experience for hikers and campers;
- * Give freedom to the managers of the state and National Park Service who should have the ability to restrict or ban air tour flights over sensitive areas as they are paid to do.

THank you - Robin Brandt