

Aloha,

I am the elected county representative for an area on the Island of Hawaii that contains two national Parks, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and City of Refuge National Park. My constituents and I can not endure any more assaults on our peace and personal space from low flying helicopters or aircraft. There have been numerous crashes by low flying helicopters here, there is a continuing program of aerial spraying of cannabis plants, as well as other intrusive and dangerous forays over the homes and farms of my district. I get about calls and comments every day from irate residents complaining of violations of current flight rules and loss of quality of life. My district is rural with many small farms and ranches. Over the years, many horses and other livestock have been lost or killed from the constant overflights of various aircraft. Things are getting much worse every year. Visiting tourists (our main source of income) complain about the obnoxious effects of low flying aircraft and question why they should return to experience this nuisance. I have many retired military veterans in my district who suffer from the stress these low flying aircraft generate.

The FAA in its rulemaking capacity should maintain or increase the current minimum altitude, eliminate exemptions from the altitude rule, and give the state and National Park Service the ability to restrict tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas. Noise from air tours is not only an annoyance for hikers and campers seeking a wilderness experience, but it 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.

Government studies have demonstrated that the higher minimum altitude saves lives;

Constant noise has been shown to adversely impact human health;

Hawaii's wildlife--especially forest birds--are negatively affected by overflight disruptions, from mating problems to abandonment of nests;

Constant noise in state and national parks can ruin the wilderness experience for hikers and campers;

The state and National Park Service should have the ability to restrict or ban air tour flights over sensitive areas.

Again, on behalf of the residents of my district, I strongly suggest that the FAA maintain or increase the current minimum altitude, eliminate exemptions from the altitude rule, and give the state and National Park Service the ability to restrict tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas.

Mahalo

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