

I am strongly opposed to reducing the minimum altitude for helicopter overflights of wilderness areas. I believe the altitude should in fact be raised to 1,000 feet minimum.

Low-flying helicopters are a consistent disruption to those attempting to enjoy the quiet and solitude which wilderness alone offers; today, this level of enjoyment is impossible, as tour helicopters and other vehicles continually ply the skies, disrupting the peace of the forest below.

There are ample studies available (many of which have already been submitted to you) demonstrating that the noise of internal combustion engines has a deleterious effect on the breeding behavior of native wildlife, especially birds. Since Hawai'i's avifauna is already under great stress, to allow tour helicopters to further impact their breeding ability is unconscionable.

Please seriously consider raising the minimum flight altitude to 1,000 feet, and under no circumstances consider lowering the minimum altitude.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.