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FAA-03-14830-221



"Steve Armstrong"
<stevea@maui.net>
09/10/2003 12:51 PM

To: Alberta Brown/AWA/FAA@FAA
cc:
Subject: helicopter minimum altitude on Maui- FAA-2003-14830

Aloha Alberta,

I am writing to comment on FAA docket # FAA-2003-14830 concerning helicopter's minimum height requirements in Hawaii.

I know there are many good reasons to keep the height of helicopters at least 1500' so I won't mention them. But my concern is with the number of flights, violations and exemptions. We live in the remote, sparsely settled, barren ranch land of Maui. The area has no terrain vehicular traffic so it could be very silent and still much of the time. However, we are on the direct flight path between the heliport and a gorgeous ocean and sunset viewing plateau at about 3000' elevation a couple miles beyond us.

Even though the helicopter tour operators know the rules, and we have reminded them of them frequently, and their operators are informed of them too, there are so many flights throughout the day that with even a few violations of minimum height, it is a noisy distracting area to live healthily. We are one of the few houses in this area and frankly, we are overlooked or forgotten by the operators. Our home blends in with the terrain and may be nearly invisible from the air.

With the not infrequent violations of minimum height by the tour operators, the occasional ranch operation by helicopter and emergency flights which we understand are not bound by the minimum height rule, the cumulative effect can be oppressive. The quality of life is degraded considerably. This is just one more aspect of the sacrifice of the natural wonder and beauty of Maui to the tourist industry.

Please maintain or increase the current minimum altitude restrictions. In addition please eliminate the numerous exemptions to the rule which cumulatively have such an eroding effect on the quality of life.

Thank you for receiving this taxpayers message of concern.

Hoping you have a wonderful day.

Sincerely, Steve Armstrong

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MAILBOX