

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE
WITH THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD AND FEDERAL
AVIATION ADMINISTRATION IN A REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF KAUA'I
HELICOPTER OPERATIONS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND A PLAN
OF ACTION TO IMPROVE SAFETY.

1 WHEREAS, there have been too many helicopter accidents on
2 the island of Kaua'i; and
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4 WHEREAS, the history of helicopter crashes in the past
5 seven years on Kaua'i include:
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7 (1) March 11, 2007 - Inter-island Helicopters crashed in
8 Ha'ena with one fatality and three people injured;
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10 (2) March 8, 2007 - Heli USA tour helicopter crashed on
11 the northwest end of Princeville, resulting in three
12 deaths and several passengers seriously injured;
13

14 (3) September 23, 2005 - Heli USA tour helicopter went
15 down in the ocean off Ha'ena, resulting in three
16 fatalities;
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18 (4) September 24, 2004 - Bali Hai Helicopters crashed into
19 a cliff near Mount Kahili, resulting in five deaths;
20 and
21

22 (5) July 23, 2003 - Jack Harter Helicopters went down on
23 Mount Wai'ale'ale, resulting in five fatalities; and
24

25 WHEREAS, according to an article of March 11, 2007, of *The*
26 *Honolulu Advertiser*, forty people have died and numerous
27 individuals have been injured from accidents statewide,
28 including on the Big Island and Maui since 1994; and
29



1 WHEREAS, even though helicopters are still considered a
2 safe mode of transportation, the United States has experienced
3 1,363 incidents or accidents since 2000; and
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5 WHEREAS, without a thorough review of and significant
6 improvements to current helicopter operations policies and
7 procedures, more accidents could happen in populated areas,
8 resulting in damages to homes, as well as more deaths and
9 injuries to both passengers and residents on the ground; now,
10 therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Department
15 of Transportation is requested to coordinate with the National
16 Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration
17 to:
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- 19 (1) Review and evaluate existing Kaua'i helicopter
20 operations, make recommendations to improve safety,
21 and implement a plan of action including possible
22 legislation and administrative rules;
23
- 24 (2) Seek the input of tour helicopter employees, staff,
25 maintenance crews, National Transportation Safety
26 Board, County of Kaua'i, and the community;
27
- 28 (3) Review incidents or accidents as well as procedures
29 and policies in other states, with a view to improving
30 Hawaii's helicopter safety record;
31
- 32 (4) Follow up annually with various stakeholders to ensure
33 that the recommendations are being implemented and
34 consistently followed; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of
37 Transportation report any findings and recommendations to the
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
39 the Regular Session of 2008; and
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
43 Transportation; National Transportation Safety Board; Federal



1 Aviation Administration; Kaua'i County Mayor; Kaua'i County
2 Council; Kaua'i County Fire Chief; Hawaii's Congressional
3 delegation; Inter-island Helicopters; Heli USA; Jack Harter
4 Helicopters; Air Kaua'i; Island Helicopters Kaua'i; Mauna Loa
5 Helicopters, Inc.; Ni'ihau Helicopters, Inc.; Safari Helicopters;
6 Will Squyres Helicopter Service; and Rotor Wing Hawai'i, Inc.
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OFFERED BY:





