
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
3 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
4 and to read as follows:

5 "§261- Helicopters; commercial purposes; instrument
6 rating. (a) No person may operate a helicopter for commercial
7 purposes within this State without a valid instrument rating
8 from the Federal Aviation Administration.

9 (b) Any individual who operates a helicopter in violation
10 of this section and any employer for whom the individual
11 operates the helicopter shall each be subject to penalties under
12 section 261-21(a) (2)."

13 PART II

14 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that helicopter crashes
15 and resulting deaths continue to be a matter of public concern
16 in Hawaii. There have been eighteen civilian helicopter crashes



1 in Hawaii since 2015, occurring on Oahu, Hawaii island, Kauai,
2 and Molokai.

3 Hawaii residents are not only concerned with the dangers
4 associated with helicopter crashes, such as the December 2019
5 crash on Kauai or the April 2019 crash on a residential street
6 in Kailua, but also with issues related to helicopter noise,
7 frequency, and altitude. These concerns related to helicopters
8 in Hawaii remain largely unresolved. The legislature believes
9 that requiring helicopter owners and operators to report basic
10 details of helicopter flights will help provide necessary
11 information to stakeholders and community members in order to
12 find a meaningful resolution to this area of concern.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to require
14 helicopter owners and operators to submit monthly reports about
15 basic helicopter flight information.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§261- Reporting of helicopter flights. (a) For each
20 helicopter subject to this chapter, the owner or operator of
21 that helicopter shall submit a report that includes details of



1 each flight the helicopter took during each calendar month to
2 the department and the advisory committee of the county from
3 which the helicopter took off from or landed in.

4 (b) The report shall include:

5 (1) The days and times that the helicopter took off and
6 landed;

7 (2) The number of individuals in the helicopter during
8 each flight;

9 (3) Each flight path, including altitudes, from take-off
10 through landing; and

11 (4) Whether the helicopter deviated from its flight plan,
12 including an explanation of why the deviation
13 occurred.

14 (c) The report required pursuant to this section shall be
15 submitted by 4:30 p.m. on the fifteenth day of the month
16 following the month for which the report is required.

17 (d) The department shall post the reports required under
18 subsection (a) to its website within one week of receipt of the
19 report from a helicopter owner or operator.

20 (e) The failure to submit a report to the department and
21 the advisory committee of the county from which the helicopter



1 took off from or landed in pursuant to subsection (a) shall
2 constitute a violation of this chapter, and the owner or
3 operator of the helicopter shall be subject to the penalties
4 established pursuant to section 261-21."

5 PART III

6 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
7 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
8 begun before its effective date.

9 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Helicopters; Operation; Instrument Rating; Penalty; Reporting;
DOT; County Advisory Committees

Description:

Prohibits the operation of a helicopter for commercial purposes without a valid instrument rating from the Federal Aviation Administration. Subjects both a violating individual and an individual's employer to penalties. Requires helicopter owners and operators to submit reports to the department of transportation and the appropriate county advisory committee about basic helicopter flight information. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (Proposed HD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

