

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HELICOPTERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that helicopters pose  
2 severe risks to local communities and have increasingly  
3 disrupted the lives of residents in neighborhoods across the  
4 State. On April 29, 2019, the pilot and two passengers were  
5 killed when a tour helicopter crashed on Oneawa Street, a busy  
6 residential roadway in Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii. Debris and burning  
7 aircraft parts falling from crashing tour helicopters on  
8 surrounding yards, street, and homes pose grave safety concerns  
9 to those in affected residential neighborhoods. The legislature  
10 notes that helicopter noise as a result of commercial air tour  
11 flights over residential areas in Hawaii have become  
12 increasingly problematic in recent years, causing many residents  
13 to voice complaints relating to noise, altitude, and public  
14 safety.

15           While many air tour companies would like to be good  
16 neighbors, it is close to impossible for them to police each  
17 individual pilot, as they are operating in heavily trafficked



1 airspace. It would be helpful for all concerned if the  
2 information about who is flying and their destination is readily  
3 and routinely available. The legislature therefore finds that  
4 routine documentation through public record is necessary to  
5 address the lack of transparency on the part of helicopter  
6 operators and hold these operators accountable for their  
7 actions.

8 The purpose of this Act is to increase transparency  
9 regarding helicopter operations by requiring all private  
10 helicopter operators to provide certain information to the  
11 department of transportation on a public website, prior to the  
12 operation of any private helicopter.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "§261- Helicopter operation; required information. (a)  
17 Any other law to the contrary withstanding, no person shall  
18 operate, cause to be operated, or authorize to be operated any  
19 private helicopter unless the following information is provided  
20 to the airports division of the department prior to operation:

21 (1) Identification of the pilot;



- 1        (2) Identification of the type of helicopter to be
- 2                utilized;
- 3        (3) Projected takeoff time; and
- 4        (4) Projected flight plan.
- 5        (b) The information required pursuant to subsection (a)
- 6 shall be provided to the department through a public website to
- 7 be posted for a period of thirty days.

8        (c) This section shall apply to all private helicopters  
 9 operating in the State, including but not limited to helicopters  
 10 engaged in:

- 11        (1) Recreational activities;
- 12        (2) Commercial purposes, such as private tour operations;
- 13                or
- 14        (3) The business of motion picture and television film  
 15 production, as defined by the director of taxation."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*Rosaly de Bob*  
*Jesus Mercado K.*  
*S. Alvarez*



S.B. NO. 2320

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# S.B. NO. 2320

**Report Title:**

Helicopter Operations; Private Helicopters; Requirements;  
Department of Transportation; Flights

**Description:**

Requires all private helicopter operators to provide certain information to the department of transportation on a public website, prior to the operation of any private helicopter.

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

