

JAN 21 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ACTION
REGARDING COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER TOUR OPERATIONS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours are a popular visitor
2 activity in Hawaii that have been successful for some private
3 companies; and

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5 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours have however become a
6 bane to many residents of areas over which the tours fly, as the
7 lack of regulation and the lucrative nature of the tours have
8 created a "wild west" in the sky; and

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10 WHEREAS, commercial helicopter tours focusing on the
11 natural scenery of the coastlines, mountains, and national parks
12 fly over the same areas and neighborhoods on a daily basis, to
13 the detriment of residents and visitors below, who experience
14 constant helicopter noise; and

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16 WHEREAS, due to the distress and disruption caused by
17 chronic helicopter noise, the noise has become a public health
18 concern; and

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20 WHEREAS, comprehensive regulation of these helicopters and
21 the enforcement of those regulations are necessary; and

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23 WHEREAS, although helicopters are required to maintain a
24 minimum flight altitude of one thousand five hundred feet, it
25 appears that many tour companies ignore this requirement; and

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27 WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to increase the minimum
28 flight altitude to two thousand five hundred feet when flying
29 above residences, and to five thousand feet when flying above
30 national park land; and

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32 WHEREAS, tour helicopters should be required to avoid
33 residences and use offshore routes whenever possible; and



S.R. NO. 13

1 WHEREAS, air tour management plans for national parks
 2 should be created, pursuant to the National Parks Air Tour
 3 Management Act of 2000; and

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 5 WHEREAS, it would be appropriate to impose tiered penalties
 6 on and revoke flying privileges from repeat violators of
 7 aircraft regulations; and

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 9 WHEREAS, flight pattern regulations, elevation regulations,
 10 and air tour management plans for national parks are under the
 11 jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration; now,
 12 therefore,

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 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 15 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 16 Federal Aviation Administration is urged to more aggressively
 17 enforce existing laws against commercial tour operators in the
 18 State; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Aviation
 21 Administration is urged to increase minimum flight altitudes for
 22 tour helicopters, mandate offshore tour aircraft routes when
 23 appropriate, and create air tour management plans for national
 24 parks in Hawaii; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 27 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Federal
 28 Aviation Administration, Director of the Hawaii Department of
 29 Transportation, and members of Hawaii's congressional
 30 delegation.

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OFFERED BY: _____

James T. L.
[Signature]
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