

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE  
  
Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 6, 2023  
3:01 P.M.  
State Capitol, RM 224

**S.B. 2891**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **support** for S.B. 2891, which authorizes the opening of Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations.

The helicopter operations will provide an additional mode of transportation to the west side of Maui.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 5, 2024

Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

Chris Lee, Chair  
Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
Transportation Culture & Arts Committee  
Via email

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Opposition to SB2891

I opposed bill SB2891 relating to helicopters at Kapalua Airport. Until this important topic is vetted in the community and the community has its input, SB2891 should not move forward.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci".

SHANE M. SINENCI  
Councilmember  
East Maui District

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

## COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 5, 2024

TO: Honorable Chair Chris Lee, Vice-Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, and members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

FROM: Tamara Paltin  
Maui County Councilmember

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO SB 2891, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize helicopter operations during daylight hours at the Kapalua airport.

I **OPPOSE** the measure for the following reasons:

1. There has been zero community outreach in West Maui regarding this bill.
2. In Lahaina, we have found helicopters landing in West Maui to be disruptive to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara A. M. Paltin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TAMARA PALTIN  
Councilmember

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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February 5, 2024

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
3:01 PM

**SUBJECT: IN OPPOSITION OF SB2891, RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and honorable committee members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in *opposition* of SB2891, which would authorize the department of transportation to authorize helicopter operations during daylight hours at the Kapalua airport.

If the intention of this measure is to address emergency situations, then perhaps there may be support, however, the bill does not stipulate that these helicopters would be limited to operations due to an emergency.

Our Molokai community, particularly those on the east and north side of our island, have been experiencing a constant barrage of tour helicopters that have no regard of their impacts, including the deafening sounds and invasion of residents' privacy on their own property. Despite complaints, the HDOT has not reduced the amount of tour helicopters from the heliports where they currently operate. Enabling tour helicopters use of the Kapalua Airport has the potential to increase the number of tour helicopters impacting our community.

I urge you to either add language in SB2891 to limit operational use of Kapalua Airport to emergencies only, or to defer this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keani Rawlins-Fernandez".

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Councilmember



Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
3:01 pm, February 6

Re: Support for SB 2891, Relating to the Department of Transportation

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to support SB 2891, Relating to the Department of Transportation. This bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to allow helicopter operations during daylight hours at Kapalua airport.

Blue Hawaiian Helicopters has a deep and longstanding commitment to the Maui community which was immediately tested during the Maui wildfires as our Maui employees and business partners sought to address the need for supplies, evacuations, and emergency operation assessment overflights. We were granted permission to provide immediate service and our employees mobilized to assist in recovery efforts which included the delivery of medical supplies, food, water, and necessary equipment.

We believe that having limited continued operations in remote areas such as Kapalua will help ensure swift response and evacuation capabilities in the event of emergencies, such as the Maui Fires. Air services will facilitate the rapid transportation of personnel, equipment, and supplies to affected areas, aiding in disaster management and mitigation efforts. Having pilots based at Kapalua Airport means that they will be familiar with the weather, routes, residences, and hotels and be able to support tourism and emergency support when the community needs it the most.

In addition, the introduction of air services will create high paying employment opportunities for local residents, contributing to the economic development of West Maui. The establishment of new jobs in the aviation and tourism sectors will provide a sustainable source of income for individuals and families in the community. We believe that limited operations in Kapalua will also alleviate traffic congestion by providing an alternative mode of transportation, reducing the reliance on the Pali, the only road that access to/from West Maui.

Page Two

We understand the inclusion of a restriction to “daylight” hours to be an effort to reduce any perceived negative impacts of the airport’s operations. As a community partner, it is Blue Hawaiian Helicopter’s commitment to ensure the highest levels of safety and to minimize noise through longstanding policies and the use of quiet technology. We look forward to engaging with policy leaders and wish to be a resource to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:37:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Goodmanson	Testifying for Kapalani Estates HOA	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Linda Goodmanson, and on behalf of the Kapalani Estates HOA oppose SB2891 allowing non-emergency helicopters at Kapalua airport. We are surprised this bill was introduced by two non-Maui officials who appear to have no affiliation with westside Maui. Our local representatives were not consulted/advised nor was there any community outreach until the day before the vote! I found out about it this morning through NextDoor.

We oppose non-emergency helicopters at Kapalua airport for a number of reasons. The noise pollution will disrupt learning at the new school opening soon just below the airport. There are also ~ 1,000 homes being built on this property. The general vicinity is a bedroom community comprised of 1,000's of homes and condos plus a number of parks.

We strongly oppose SB2891 and companion bill HB1621. We require knowing who/what/why this bill has been proposed and made it this far in the process without the involvement of local officials and the public.

Linda Goodmanson, Kapalani Estates



*Maui Hotel & Lodging*  
ASSOCIATION

January 30, 2024

**Subject: Support for SB 2891 -- Opening Kapalua Airport for Helicopters**

Dear Senator Chris Lee and Representative Chris Todd,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2891, which authorizes the opening of Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations during daylight hours on the West Side of Maui. I believe this initiative will bring numerous benefits to our community, both in terms of tourism and disaster response.

Firstly, opening Kapalua Airport for helicopters will provide an alternative mode of transportation for tourists visiting the West Side of Maui. With the implementation of Quiet Technology, these helicopters will significantly reduce traffic congestion on the Pali, which has become a major concern for residents and visitors alike. By offering a convenient and efficient means of transportation and tourism flights nearby, we can enhance the overall tourist experience while simultaneously alleviating the strain on our road infrastructure.

Furthermore, having helicopter resources readily available on the West Side of the island will greatly enhance our disaster response capabilities. As we learned with the Maui Fire, in times of crisis, quick and effective response is crucial by both public and private sector. By establishing a helicopter base at Kapalua Airport, emergency services will have immediate access to aerial support, enabling them to reach affected areas swiftly and efficiently. This will undoubtedly save lives and minimize the impact of such disasters on our community.

I understand that there may be concerns regarding noise pollution. However, with the advancements in Quiet Technology, modern helicopters have become significantly quieter and more environmentally friendly. By implementing strict noise regulations, such as no tours on Sunday, and ensuring compliance with FAA standards, we can strike a balance between community aesthetic, tourism economy, and having the helicopters available for our community when disaster strikes.

I firmly believe that opening Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations is a step in the right direction for our community. It will not only enhance the tourism industry on the West Side of Maui but also provide essential resources and capacity for disaster response. I kindly request that you consider my support for this initiative and take it into account during your decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am confident that by working together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for our beloved island.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Paulson, Executive Director  
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association





Robert Friedl  
General Manager  
Montage Kapalua Bay  
One Bay Drive  
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761  
[robert.friedl@montage.com](mailto:robert.friedl@montage.com)  
(808) 662-6632

February 1, 2024

**RECIPIENT:** Senator Chris Lee and Rep Chris Todd

**Subject:** Support for SB 2891-- Opening Kapalua Airport for Helicopters

Dear Senator Chris Lee and Rep Chris Todd,

I am writing to express my compelling support for SB 2891 which authorizes the opening of Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations during daylight hours on the West Side of Maui. I believe that this initiative will bring numerous benefits to our community, both in terms of tourism and disaster response.

To begin with, opening Kapalua Airport for helicopter services will provide an alternative mode of transportation for tourists visiting the West Side of Maui. With the implementation of Quiet Technology, these helicopters will significantly reduce traffic congestion on the Pali and along the highway connecting the two sides (areas) of our island. As many are aware, this has become a major concern for residents and visitors alike. By offering a convenient and efficient means of transportation and tourism flights nearby, we can enhance the overall tourist experience while simultaneously alleviating the strain on our road infrastructure.

Furthermore, having helicopter resources readily available on the West Side of the island will greatly enhance our disaster response capabilities. After the recent Lahaina Fires, the Kapalua Airport was our lifeline to the outside world, allowing us to receive much needed supplies immediately for those impacted by the fires. It is of the utmost importance, in times of crisis, quick and effective response is crucial by both public and private sector. By establishing a helicopter base at Kapalua Airport, emergency services will have immediate access to aerial support, enabling them to reach affected areas swiftly and efficiently. This will undoubtedly save lives and minimize the impact of such disasters on our community.

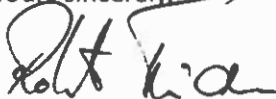
As a member of the Kapalua business community, we receive frequent requests from guests and business associates to travel to an airport closer in proximity to our resort. We anticipate that other residents and businesses would be appreciative of the services provided by the addition of helicopters.

I understand that there may be concerns regarding noise pollution. However, with the advancements in Quiet Technology, modern helicopters have become significantly quieter and more environmentally friendly. By implementing strict noise regulations, such as no tours on Sunday, and ensuring compliance with FAA standards, we can strike a balance between community aesthetic, tourism economy, and having the helicopters available for our community when disaster strikes.

I firmly believe that opening Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations is a step in the right direction for our community. It will not only enhance the tourism industry on the West Side of Maui but also provide essential resources and capacity for disaster response. I kindly request that you consider my support for this initiative and take it into account during your decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am confident that by working together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for our beloved island.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Friedl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert C. Friedl  
*General Manager*

January 31, 2024

Senator Chris Lee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 219  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov  
(808) 587-8388

Representative Chris Todd  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 443  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
reptodd@capitol.hawaii.gov  
(808) 586-8480

Subject: Support for SB 2891 -- Opening Kapalua Airport for Helicopters

Dear Senator Chris Lee and Rep Chris Todd,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2891, which authorizes the opening of Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations during daylight hours on the West Side of Maui. I believe that this initiative will bring numerous benefits to our community, both in terms of tourism and disaster response.

Firstly, opening Kapalua Airport for helicopters will provide an alternative mode of transportation for tourists visiting the West Side of Maui. With the implementation of Quiet Technology, these helicopters will significantly reduce traffic congestion on the Pali, which has become a major concern for residents and visitors alike. By offering a convenient and efficient means of transportation and tourism flights nearby, we can enhance the overall tourist experience while simultaneously alleviating the strain on our road infrastructure.

Furthermore, having helicopter resources readily available on the West Side of the island will greatly enhance our disaster response capabilities. As we learned with the Maui Fire, in times of crisis, quick and effective response is crucial by both public and private sector. By establishing a helicopter base at Kapalua Airport, emergency services will have immediate access to aerial support, enabling them to reach affected areas swiftly and efficiently. This will undoubtedly save lives and minimize the impact of such disasters on our community.

I understand that there may be concerns regarding noise pollution. However, with the advancements in Quiet Technology, modern helicopters have become significantly quieter and more environmentally friendly. By implementing strict noise regulations, such as no tours on Sunday, and ensuring compliance with FAA standards, we can strike a balance between community aesthetic, tourism economy, and having the helicopters available for our community when disaster strikes.

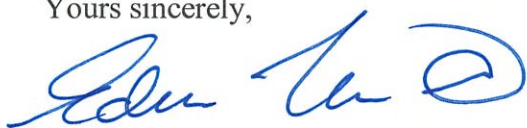
# OUTRIGGER.

KĀ'ANAPALI BEACH RESORT

I firmly believe that opening Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations is a step in the right direction for our community. It will not only enhance the tourism industry on the West Side of Maui but also provide essential resources and capacity for disaster response. I kindly request that you consider my support for this initiative and take it into account during your decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am confident that by working together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for our beloved island.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edwin Torres', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edwin Torres  
General Manager

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:36:50 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john carty	Testifying for Save Honolua Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No helicopters in West Maui airport other than emergency. Our community has been through so much and the noise is not welcomed. Don't turn our neighborhoods and new school into warzones.

Katelyn Mayer/ Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa

2605 Kaanapali Parkway, Lahaina, HI 96761

Katelyn.mayer@sheraton.com

8086628025

February 1, 2024

Senator Chris Lee and Rep Chris Todd

Subject: Support for SB 2891 -- Opening Kapalua Airport for Helicopters

Dear Senator Chris Lee and Rep Chris Todd,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 2891, which authorizes the opening of Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations during daylight hours on the West Side of Maui. I believe that this initiative will bring numerous benefits to our community, both in terms of tourism and disaster response.

Firstly, opening Kapalua Airport for helicopters will provide an alternative mode of transportation for tourists visiting the West Side of Maui. With the implementation of Quiet Technology, these helicopters will significantly reduce traffic congestion on the Pali, which has become a major concern for residents and visitors alike. By offering a convenient and efficient means of transportation and tourism flights near by, we can enhance the overall tourist experience while simultaneously alleviating the strain on our road infrastructure.

Furthermore, having helicopter resources readily available on the West Side of the island will greatly enhance our disaster response capabilities. As we learned with the Maui Fire, in times of crisis, quick and effective response is crucial by both public and private sector. By establishing a helicopter base at Kapalua Airport, emergency services will have immediate access to aerial support, enabling them to reach affected areas swiftly and efficiently. This will undoubtedly save lives and minimize the impact of such disasters on our community.

I understand that there may be concerns regarding noise pollution. However, with the advancements in Quiet Technology, modern helicopters have become significantly quieter and more environmentally friendly. By implementing strict noise regulations such as no tours on Sunday, and ensuring compliance with FAA standards, we can strike a balance between community aesthetic, tourism economy, and having the helicopters available for our community when disaster strikes.

I firmly believe that opening Kapalua Airport for helicopter operations is a step in the right direction for our community. It will not only enhance the tourism industry on the West Side of Maui but also provide

essential resources and capacity for disaster response. I kindly request that you consider my support for this initiative and take it into account during your decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I am confident that by working together, we can create a brighter and more sustainable future for our beloved island.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katelyn Mayer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katelyn Mayer

Director of Marketing

Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa



February 5, 2024

Honorable Chris Lee  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, Chairman  
415 South Beretania St., Room 219  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB 2891 (Lee)– SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Lee:

As the leading general aviation membership organization in the United States and the largest international vertical flight association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and the Helicopter Association International (HAI) are pleased to support SB 2891. This legislation is aligned with the interests of our pilots and aircraft owners in Hawaii.

While we would like to see Kapalua Airport open to both helicopter and aircraft operations during daylight hours, this measure takes a critical first step. The Kapalua Airport played a critical role in the aftermath of the Lahaina Fire. It provided a focal point for aircraft and helicopter operators to safely deliver water, food, and supplies for the fire victims and first responders. As a hub, the airport showcased the role it, and general aviation, plays in responding to statewide emergencies when roadway and highways are inaccessible or when time is of the essence.

Kapalua Airport is one of the only remaining public-use airfields limiting the operations of general aviation in the state. We look forward to working with you and the Department of Transportation in the future to allow the airport to be open for both helicopters and fixed-wing general aviation aircraft.

Thank you for introducing this measure and we look forward to working with you and your staff as it moves forward. Should you require any additional technical assistance please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information.

Respectfully,

**JARED YOSHIKI**  
*Western Pacific Regional Manager - AOPA*

**KATIA VERAZA**  
*Manager of Government Affairs - HAI*

CC: Members, Senate Transportation and Culture and the Arts Committee

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:40:36 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Albert Perez	Testifying for Maui Tomorrow Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opening Kapalua Airport to helicopter operations is a terrible idea that ignores FOUR DECADES of public opposition to helicopter tours. Helicopters fly relatively slowly, tend to fly at low altitudes, and have the ability to hover. This makes their noise and visual impacts especially intrusive. Helicopter activities adversely affect conservation lands, shoreline areas, and cultural and historic sites. They ruin the opportunity for people to quietly enjoy their homes and yards. Please kill this bill. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 11:10:52 AM  
Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john buch	Testifying for Maverick Helicopters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maverick Helicopters would be in support of offering current operators who already have locations at the Kahului Airport the option to service the guest staying near this airport. After the fire in August of 2023 and using this airport for emergency use only to deliver food/water/batteries/supplies and give complimentary rides back to Kahului Airport our company has talked with a lot of the surrounding hotels who asked us to get this airport open to help service the guest on the West side as the fire wasn't the only time they needed transfers to Kahului Airport due to road closures or other issues. This airport should not be used for operators who are not existing in Maui for expansion but to assist those who already service Maui to offer Helicopter services to our local partners.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:22:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of SB 2891! There has been no public outreach done on this measure and there are 1000 homes scheduled to be built below Kapalua airport as well as an elementary school! This is being introduced by legislators not from Maui with no public outreach to the community. During the period immediately following the fire, it was helpful to have helicopters landing in an emergency capacity but we do not want this new type of commercial activity to disrupt the school children or homes, especially as no movement has occurred with the emergency lighting for night time emergencies.

Mahalo for your serious consideration of my testimony,

Tamara Paltin

Councilmember, West Maui

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 6:35:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Lahaina doesn't need this. I am opposed to this bill

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:20:25 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
George Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB 2891. I am absolutely livid that an O'ahu senator would suggest allowing commercial helicopter operations at our tiny Kapalua Airport which is above a new affordable housing project and elementary school. The regular flights in and out are to be expected they were there first but this is an insult and so very disrespectful for O'ahu to try and dictate what should occur on Maui with absolutely zero public outreach to our community. This is some shady sh

Do not come into our community and dictate what will and won't be allowed. No to this commercial exploitation and over commercialization of West Maui do it on your own island.

George

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:22:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara C Griffiths	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No non-emergency helicopters at Kapalua Airport. There is a new elementary school and it is a residential area. Strongly oppose.

Tamara Griffiths

Lahaina, HI

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 7:48:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allowing Helicopter operations in a non emergency capacity at Kapalua airport is highly intrusive to the newly built elementary school there. Children have a hard enough time concentrating and Hawaii has a history of very low education scores.

I oppose this bill.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:08:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Kuhns	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the new elementary school being located at Kapalua Airport; please consider the impact on the keiki and their learning experience. If this is unnecessary transit, convenience, tourist related etc; the children's needs should take priority. The disruption they have experienced between Covid and the Fires is enough.



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:11:23 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keila Paahana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I can't support this bill

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:22:08 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Devon Steck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not let non emergency helicopters to operate from kapalua airport. The temp school is right there and these kids do not need to be hearing them while trying to acclimate to their new schooling environment

Mahalo,

Devon Steck

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:24:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Laurel Sheveland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB2891. We live in the neighborhood below the airport. Because of the Lahaina Fire, this whole area is in the process of being built with a new school, new workforce housing, new single houses all in that area and behind the airport as well. Having helicopters coming in and out all day at the airport for commercial purposes (not emergency related) would be noise pollution and add to the chaos. This whole area is in disruption due to the Lahaina fire and this is not the time to add a noisy commercial operation in at the airport. As affected residents, we plead that Lahaina be allowed to focus on housing our displaced residents, clean and rebuild without adding noise and safety issues to the already fragile west side. Nothing should be granted without full community involvement and a EIS. School children will be literally a few hundred feet from the helicopters taking off and landing all day long. Please put the well being of the Lahaina residents first.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:31:17 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Low	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kapalua Airport is situated in a residential area & will act as a home to an elementary school in the near future.

This airport should be only made accessible to helicopters in emergency situations. Students should be allowed to learn in a focus-friendly environment and this bill would handicap their ability.

In addition, residents who work remotely from home will have to deal with additional, unnecessary noise interference. There's no benefit to the community to pass this bill.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:08:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Noise pollution -

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:17:02 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to having commercial helicopter operations at Kapalua Airport so close to an elementary school

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:24:16 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laa Poepoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

la'a poepoe, submitting testimony in opposition. this allowance will cause a direct increase to an existing nuisance caused by tour helicopter traffic in our neighborhoods in north & east molokai. our standard quality of life in north & east molokai will be negatively affected by the passage of this bill. thank you.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:36:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I strongly oppose SB2891 that authorizes the Department of Transportation to allow helicopter operations during daylight hours at Kapalua airport. There was NO community outreach asking the parents, teachers and school staff about the noise pollution that will affect our children while they attend their newly constructed elementary school.

Mahalo,

Michelei Tancayo



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 9:38:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorena Martinez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose any helicopter/aerial activity other than an emergency capacity. Our community of West Maui continues to endure enough. Stop imposing off-island will.

Sincerely,

Lorena Martinez (resident of West Maui)

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:08:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ravi Bugga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am absolutely OPPOSED to helicopter operations at Kapalua airport. How can this bill even be considered without public outreach to the West Maui community? And how do representatives from other islands introduce this without knowing our situation?

Mahalo for opposing!

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:28:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Hehemann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

We live in very close proximity to the Kapalua airport. We have lived here long enough to know when helicopters were previously allowed. Helicopter activity and noise is obnoxious to the extreme. My wife and I strongly oppose the re-introduction of helicopter operations to the Kapalua Airport. An additional neighborhood and school are being completed within 100 yards of the Kapalua Airport and helicopter operations would be a huge disruption and a potential safety hazard to normal life. There is already a heliport in Kahului airport that services this need - we don't need to bring additional commercial operations or noise to this area which will substantially impact the quality of life in this neighborhood.

Tim and Cynthia Hehemann

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:28:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Absolutely not to this bill. What is even happening? This is one of the most inappropriate bills being introduced this legislative session concerning Lahaina. Please, if you care about our community at ALL, oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:30:48 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allowing commercial helicopter traffic in Kapalua without any community input is not okay. This community is suffering enough without increased helicopter traffic and noise pollution.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai

Makawao, HI 96768

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:33:18 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Helicopter operations, except for emergencies, at Kapalua airport is a terrible idea. It will disrupt the surrounding communities peace and hinder school concentration. It is bad that these future developments are nextdoor to the airport alone. To add helicopter incessant noise is reckless and inexcusable. West Maui has been through tough times. Please do not further exacerbate a tenuous community.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 11:15:33 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Helicopters at Kapalua Airport is not acceptable to me as a long time West side resident. I have lived and worked in Lahaina for 23 years. I have taught multiple generations of children from Lahaina families. Now, after the tragic and devastating August 8th fire that destroyed our community, so many homes, and so many lives - the children of King Kamehameha III Elementary school are getting ready to move into a temporary school campus just below Kapalua Airport. They do not need to be subjected to that noise all day! We do not need helicopter operations at this location and we do not want them. Please, oppose this bill.

Mahalo,  
Katrina Ahia

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:35:39 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Griffiths	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this testimony to state my opposition to this bill in it's entirety. SB2891 was not constructed with any input from the West Maui community, at a very sensitive time, and I have several issues with it that I'm sure the community would share.

Firstly, the new school and low-income housing will be constantly plagued by the noise of helicopters going overhead, showing a clear preference to tourists ahead of local families once again. Community reports from Wailuku and Paia describe the noise as being similar to that of a 'war-zone', hardly seeming appropriate for an education environment.

Secondly, at a time when the West Side is in turmoil and it is likely land and space for new housing will be needed, it is imperative we secure these details before opening the gates for commercial use. Using Mala boat ramp as an example, it is clear that once the commercial floodgates have been opened it is very difficult to reverse any negative impact. Therefore, it is critical that any commercial developments on the West Side of Maui be delayed until after such a time that the local population are settled and established.

Lastly, the lack of community input on this matter does nothing but fuel the commonly held belief that we are not valued the same as commercial businesses and tourists. It has been consistently stated by residents that they want significant input in the rebuild and redevelopment of the West Side and the manner in which this bill has been moved along is nothing short of disrespectful, if not borderedlining on underhanded.

If nothing else, this bill should at the very least be postponed until significant community input is sought, as it is my strong belief that there will be no doubt about how opposed to this the local community would be if they were aware.

It is time for Honolulu to do the correct thing by West Maui residents and start to dispel some of the well-founded scepticism about Maui's value to the state beyond mere commercial dollars.

Thankyou for your consideration,

Michael Griffiths



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:53:06 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Quine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe there should not be discrimination against rotorcraft vs fixed wing. Mokulele and other loud aircraft already operate directly over homes in the area. I believe we should treat all commercial operations equally. If we allow commercial airplanes, we should also allow helicopters. If there is controversy about noise, there can be designated flight plans and altitude requirements for departure and arrival, applicable to all aircraft's using the kapalua airport, ultimately making the area more quiet. They school is also a temporary location and should not be a factor in this decision.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Clapper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This location should be only used for emergency transportation and not recreational or non emergency aircraft. Having commercial aircraft for recreation or tour rides would greatly impose access should there be an emergency or crisis.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:21:31 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joann Milne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to commercial rotary wing aircraft being allowed to use Kapalua Airport EXCEPT for rotary air ambulance services. Noise pollution over schools potentially causing learning difficulties needs to be fully studied prior to ANY approvals being granted. Studies done on Okinawan schools with constant fly-overs may apply and need to be considered before any approvals are granted.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:14:48 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kai Nishiki	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**STRONGLY OPPOSE -**

Our community is already overrun by tourism on the land and sea, and we certainly do not need to add more tourists assaulting us with noise pollution from the sky!

How dare this be proposed in our community without consultation and public outreach.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:23:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayo Malik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I just found out about HB1621 which has been introduced without any kind of outreach to the West Maui community. First of all, senators and representatives that have no connection with the local community should come to the community first, before trying to sneak in a bill.

I am opposed against non-emergency helicopter operations at Kapalua airport, as it will create too much noise for the children at the new King Kamehameha elementary school and the residents of the area. We are already traumatized by the after effects of the fire and don't want to hear constant helicopter noise as if we are living in a war zone. I am also very concerned this would have on the ability of the children to learn. They are already having to make a huge adjustment due to the loss of their original school and need peace and quiet!

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:21:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Carty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No helicopters in Kapalua! How dare you try to do this without public input. This is a residential area now. Disrespectful to try to sneak this through. Chris Lee and Chris Todd have nothing to do with West Maui and if they want to come here and tell us why they think it is good for us then we will listen and share our thoughts. But I'm sure they won't.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:43:15 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this Bill. It makes no sense to me how someone not from our 'aina can come to our home and tell us what is allowed or not!!! With all the trauma our Westside Ohana have endured these last 6 months, this is one more thing added to the insecurity. To allow helicopter operations @ Kapalua airport which is near to one of our schools that is being relocated out of the burn zone will be very disruptive to our keiki. The constant noise may have unknown impacts to the wellbeing of all staff and/or our keiki. Please do not allow this Bill to pass. Mahalo!

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:50:49 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louise Palmer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose this bill,, heliopters flying above the new school....no no no !!!



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:24:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bryan Butteling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has lived in the Mahinahina area for over 30 years which is directly down Akahahele st. There is already a growing concern and issues with the construction going on with the new development on Akahahele st causing red dirt to clouds to spill over to the residents of Mahinahina. The addition of helicopters being allowed to operate out of Kapalua airport with no clear guidance on what the use will be for, how often they will be running, the amount of flights they will have daily is very concerning and we as the community demand a more well thought out proposal set with specific guidelines that helicopters have to operate by and abide. Additionally we would like to review environmental and community impact reports conducted by a third party to evaluate the long term impacts operating helicopters out of Kapalua will have on our community.

Mahalo,

Butteling Ohana

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:50:34 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelani Paresa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! Im writing to oppose this bill.

Where's the public meeting!

This is NOT how discretion is meant to work.

Do your job to do better and put people over profit.

Mahalo

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:26:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado oppose Bill SB2891

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:38:59 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Howard Rentzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live right at the bottom on the hill to the airport. Nothing is stated that this would be for emergencies only. We have been under a barrage of constant noise and red dirt from the construction of the temporary school and housing development going on both sides of the airport. To add Commercial helicopters to this would be unacceptable. There has been no outreach to the local community concerning this issue!

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:42:58 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexa Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB2891. The emergency elementary school for Lahaina is being built below the Kapalua Airport. Having commercial helicopters take off throughout the day would be disruptive to the students. Their lives have been and continue to be disrupted enough.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:09:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure.

- U'ilani Naipo

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:57:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Riley Bond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2891, which proposes the allowance of commercial helicopters to operate out of Kapalua Airport. This bill raises significant concerns for our community, particularly those residing in the neighborhoods and the upcoming temporary school located just beneath the airport.

The prospect of commercial helicopters operating in such close proximity to residential areas and an educational institution is alarming. Our keiki, who are the heart of our community and future leaders, should not be subjected to the disruptive and potentially detrimental effects of loud helicopter noises during their learning hours. This bill, if passed, could compromise the conducive learning environment we are striving to create for our children.

Furthermore, the primary beneficiaries of this proposal seem to be private helicopter tour companies, with a potential negative impact on our community. It appears that the primary motivation is financial gain for these private entities, at the expense of the well-being of our residents and the tranquility of our neighborhoods.

The proposal also raises the question of necessity. We already have a designated location for helicopter tours at Kahului Airport. Allowing commercial helicopters to operate out of Kapalua Airport seems unnecessary and potentially harmful to the quality of life in our community.

Additionally, the notion of providing tourists with a birds-eye view of the burnt remains of our beloved Lahaina town through helicopter tours is distressing. Such a perspective seems insensitive and exploitative of a tragic event, with little regard for the emotional impact on our community.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the well-being of our community, especially our keiki, and to reject SB 2891. Our neighborhoods and schools should not bear the burden of commercial interests that stand to profit at the expense of our peace and quality of life. I implore you to prioritize the needs and concerns of our residents over the financial gains of private helicopter tour companies.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**Riley Bond**



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:36:26 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Manu Akana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not have helicopters taking off or flying near or around any schools or neighborhoods. I oppose this bill.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:42:24 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KatieBelle Cocker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

# Opposition for SB2891

To Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and the honorable members of the committee,

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to express my **strong opposition for SB2891**, which would allow helicopter operations out of Kapalua airport during daylight hours.

Our community is building a school right there, and there are future plans for workforce housing to be built. Adding commercial helicopter tours would be disruptive to our keiki and our community.

I urge the committee to not pass SB2891, recognizing our most important duty is to our keiki and not those of tour companies.

Mahalo for your commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Austin

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:17:42 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karyn Kanekoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose SB2891 which would permit non-emergency helicopters to use Kapalua airport as a landing zone. This will cause unnecessary noise and safety issues for our temp elementary school just feet away from the airport. Also, we DO NOT need more air traffic in west Maui. Mahalo!

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:19:27 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am firmly against SB-2891, particularly in regard to the proposal to expand helicopter operations at West Maui Kapalua airport to include daylight hours. Has a comprehensive study assessed the potential impact on the surrounding areas? It's important to consider the proximity of King Kamehameha III school and the potential noise and environmental impact. The Lahaina community is already heavily affected by tourism on the ground, and we should not further exacerbate the situation with additional tourism and noise pollution from the skies. However, I do acknowledge the necessity for helicopters to have access for emergency landings.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:30:17 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Civitello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very much oppose SB2891. It does not benefit enough of the community-at-large and the disruption of this sound makes it an abusive form of tourism.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:47:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in opposition to SB2891.

The only acceptable use of Kapalua airport for helicopter operations is for emergency response needs. Outside of emergency response, Kapalua airport should not be used for helicopter operations. The noise pollution from helicopter use is a disturbance to those in the area, including schools, homes, and businesses, thus the only acceptable helicopter operations to be using Kapalua airport is for emergency response.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:47:37 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Marie Quinlan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Senate,

My family resides within 2 miles of the Kapalua Airport. I was shocked that the Senate would consider adding helicopter traffic to Kapalua Airport without reaching out to ANY Maui citizens. This bill is NOT sponsored by our local legislators. It is high-handed to the extreme. Vote no.



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:55:08 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and mahalo for your time.

I am writing today in strong opposition to SB2891.

As you are likely aware, USACE has been working to construct a temporary school just makai of the Kapalua Airport, and the last thing that they need is more distractions.

I am concerned by the simplicity and lack of transparency about this bill. Why is this even being proposed? I can see no benefits for the Lahaina community.

Please do not pass this bill, as we do not need added winds and noise on west Maui.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:13:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keala Cabanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With great consideration and advocacy for the residents, and all the kumu and keiki at the newly constructed school located directly beneath Kapalua airport, I strongly oppose this bill. The daylight operation of helicopters will increasingly cause unnecessary amounts noise and commercial traffic to the area. Under these unfortunate circumstances, our people and our keiki deserve a dignified and respectful space of learning.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:12:58 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy D Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not approve bill where helicopters can fly out of Kapalua Airport. They are very loud & noisy disturbing island residents as well as visitors. This affects all three islands Maui Molokai & Lanai. The helicopters are also detrimental to our ocean marine life.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:14:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ROBERT PETERSON	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to allowing helicopters to operate out of the Kapalua airport without any hearings or outreach to the community. The already crowded use of the airport and the current and future use of the adjacent area for housing and schools will make such operation dangerous and undue noise pollution.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:31:41 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chelseamay Pupuhi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The utilization of Kapalua Airport for helicopters may increase the already busy tour flight around Molokai. I oppose this bill for the fact that it may add to the nuisance of tour heilcopters flying around Molokai numerous times per day. Three helicopters per hour for eight hours a day. Sometimes starting at 7:30am. Utilization of the Kapalua airport by these tour companies should not be allowed. Molokai does not benefit in any way with these helicopter tours. THEy are a nusiance, and invasion of privacy, and are not welcomed by the residents of Molokai.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:26:09 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Palmer Naki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Palmer Naki. I am born and raised Manae Molokai. Our ancestors opposed this and we still do today.

I have had many communications with the various helicopter companies, with their CEOs and pilots over the last many years. The helicopters presence here flying over our island has become problem.

we address this same issue over and over again.

I am definitely opposed to bill SB2891 and the disruption it will create for the people living close to the airport.

Mahalo for submitting my testimony.

Palmer Naki

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:38:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexis Brunold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I am writing to adamittly Oppose this bill.  
Helicopters should be strictly for Emergency's only.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:40:59 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Courtney Brown	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Kapalua airport is surrounded by homes and schools. Helicopter use at Kapalua Airport should be limited to emergency and emergency medical response.



**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 12:43:47 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider this testimony to not allow helicopter use unless for Emergency Use only.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:20:06 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% against this bill. How can someone with absolutely no connection to Maui and the Kapalua Airport propose a bill with no community input! I will never be in favor of allowing non emergency helicopters to fly at Kapalua Airport. I have to put up with the constant noise of helicopters flying near my home as they head up to the West Maui mountains.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:49:34 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Myself and my family strongly opposed this bill. We are bombarded with tour helicopters already at unacceptable levels on Eastern Molokai, every 10 to 15 minutes, every single day, flying over from Maui. Opening an airport and Kapalua will only increase this and is absolutely criminal and unnecessary. It is driven by greed, and not driven by the needs and incessant demands of our on the ground local population who are abused and affected by these companies. it is obvious this bill is simply to increase tourism at what is considered a "untapped market", Molokai, without any approval or consent from the people who live here and the people who are affected every day by this industry. Senator Lee introduced this bill, which is no surprise. He has killed every single bill that we have tried to pass since 2017 to regulate air tours in Hawaii. Do not let him and his Unethical partnerships with the air tour organizations, mandate laws, that affect all of us on the ground. These are our lives. These tours damage, public health, and should be illegal. They damage veterans, those with PTSD, children, people with autism, animals, and many others with their heavy vibrations and loud noise, as well as their incessant operations daily. End the abuse and do not pass this law.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:09:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The helicopter tours already incessantly fly over our west maui & east Molokai communities, including our elementary schools, rehab facilities (with a lot of veterans!), neighborhoods, sacred heiau & valleys, fishponds, and wreck havoc on our peace on the ground.

Their vibrations and noise especially affect veterans, young children, animals, those with autism, PTSD, and anyone sensitive to noise. Passing this will increase Maui & Molokai tours over our homes beyond the already unacceptable levels of EVERY 10 - 15 minutes 365 days a year

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:17:04 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannine Carr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yo Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I live on Kahana Ridge Drive bordering the property identified as Pulelehua. We are opposed to any additional unnecessary air traffic that will benefit a few tourist companies. We are also concerned about the children who will be attending school so close to the airport. Again, I can't reiterate enough how much we are opposed to the addition of helicopter traffic at west Maui airport.

Thank you,

Jeannine Carr

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:23:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lee Chamberlain	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed and career helicopter pilot that resides in Kahana Ridge I oppose this bill as written. There are no limitations regards to the type of helicopters or there purpose only suggesting this would be opening the airport for Helicopter Tourism Oportions. Although there have been massive improvements of noise reduction in helicopters with NOTAR etc. this bill does not speak to any of that. I am open to the location being utilized for non-tourist operations such as MEDEVAC especially in leui of there being no hospital here. MEDEVAC however would require night operations as well. The bill needs a rewrite to limitations for the airports type of operations, times, purpose and type or categorie of helicopter.

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:26:51 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony **against SB2891**. Not sure why reps that don't live on Maui are trying to pass bills that effect our community. We have enough intrusions from over tourism. Now you want to add noise pollution? Please, do that on your own island.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:53:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carlos Lamas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carlos Lamas, a resident of Lahaina, and I stand in opposition to SB2891. This bill, which proposes to authorize helicopter operations during daylight hours at Kapalua Airport, overlooks the potential negative impacts on our community. I am deeply concerned about the noise pollution that increased helicopter operations would bring to our tranquil environment. Also such activities would only attract overtourism to the west side of Maui, and diminish the quality of life for our residents.

Mahalo for reading my testimony in opposition to SB2891.



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:07:49 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fernando A Urbina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB2891 and HB1621, the proposed allowance of helicopter services at our local airport, Kapalua, which is merely 1.7 miles away from my home. I am a full time resident of the state of Hawaii. I believe that introducing helicopter services at such proximity poses significant challenges and concerns that must be carefully considered.

First and foremost, the potential for increased noise pollution is a major concern. Helicopters are notoriously noisy, and the introduction of these services would undoubtedly disrupt the tranquility of our community, even if done only during the day. The constant noise from helicopter flights would adversely affect the quality of life for residents, impacting our daily activities, peaceful enjoyment of our homes, and overall well-being.

Furthermore, it is essential to consider the environmental impact of helicopter services. The increased air traffic generated, I presume, by tourists using helicopter services would contribute to heightened carbon emissions, further exacerbating our environmental challenges.

Moreover, the proposed services are likely to be primarily utilized by tourists. Our community is already grappling with the influx of visitors crowding our streets and beaches after the Lahaina fire on August 8. Introducing helicopter services catering to tourists would only exacerbate this issue, intensifying the strain on our local infrastructure, public spaces, and natural resources. We do not need anymore incentives for tourists to come to West Maui. They already have an option to go to Kaului. I feel that allowing helicopter services at KPM will be a boon for developers only and not for the local residents of West Maui.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to consider the adverse effects that allowing helicopter services at our local airport may have on our community. The potential noise pollution and the likelihood of increased tourist activity are valid concerns that need careful evaluation. I implore you to prioritize the well-being of the residents in West Maui and the preservation of our community's character by opposing the approval of helicopter services at our local airport.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will carefully weigh the concerns of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Fernando Urbina

233 Crestview Rd

Lahaina, HI 96761

nano@mac.com

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:18:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kyle franks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I am a part of the Molokai community and this would negatively affect our people here. Doing this at Kapalua Airport opens the door to direct helicopter flights over Molokai. We have too much of that already. Our veteran population, folks with mental illness and PTSD, and animals all suffer from these helicopter flight noises. This is very much a short-term gain extraction process for those invested. Simply put, it harms. These things passed behind the scenes without full community input are unlawful and unjust.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:52:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marsha Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Kahana, Maui. Our property is located right below the north side runway of the Kapalua Airport. My husband and I have reported planes to the FAA for flying continuously in circles above our neighborhood. Also, tour helicopters have made their presence known recently. They fly over our properties and this makes us very uncomfortable. This also invades our privacy. We hear planes taking off daily from the airport. Some are super loud but, they are scheduled flights and do not fly over us. I am/ assuming the helicopters are for tours in our area. We are totally against this. If helicopters use the Kapalua Airport for medical emergencies or other safety purposes, we have no problems with this. Please keep tour helicopters out of our local residence airspace. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 3:46:57 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zane Kekoa Schweitzer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As much as I believe helicopters are vital for emergency situations, I don't believe it's the best for our community on West Maui. There are many examples to learn from elsewhere throughout the state, so I oppose this bill in order to prevent any further stress and noise pollution to our community.

Mahalo,

Zane

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 4:12:22 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Jackson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I adamantly oppose this bill wanting to allow helicopters at the Kapalua West Maui Airport. My understanding was that the airport location was approved with the covenant that no helicopters (other than emergency services) or jet aircraft would be allowed. The West Maui Community originally protested about the location and building of the airport prior to guarantees being given that helicopters would not be allowed. Also with the temporary Kam III school now being at the airport location the safety of the children and successive noise of the helicopters impacting the students concentration are all other factors for not allowing helicopters. I can think of no good reasons to allow helicopters (once again other than emergency services) at the West Maui Kapalua Airport.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 5:39:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Emanuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding SB2891, I strongly oppose allowing any helicopters flying in and out of Kapalua Airport (JHM). This is a residential area, and even more people will be living here soon. On top of all the red dirt, noise, and disruption of housing and now school construction in the area, and future increased traffic with the housing development and school, we do not need to be subjected to additional helicopter noise. There are restrictions in place for the use of JHM. I do not oppose utility or emergency use, of course, but private and tourism use would be a slap in the face to the people of West Maui. I fail to see how this would benefit us in any way, but see plenty of ways this will cause us harm, with noise being the primary one.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Frank Emanuel

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 7:13:56 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Fischer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a full time resident of the area immediately adjacent to the area in this proposed bill. We as West Maui residents have been so unduly impacted by the ramifications of the Lahaina wildfire. A small fraction of the area is now housing ALL of the remaining residents as well as the unending stream and demand of tourism and its visitors. In addition endless emergency infrastructure is in constant process. A new temporary elementary school is to be complete and functional by March 2024 and is located immediately below the airport where this action is proposed. The increased air activity would take place over and around an area already buckling beneath the burden of the wildfire impacts. The noise problem alone is enough to push even more residents into leaving the area. It would be a major impact to what shred of quality of life is still remaining for us. It is an unnecessary burden to place on us in the community. Please do not pass this bill.



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 12:15:40 AM  
Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JewelMarie Paleka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2891 seeking to authorize helicopters daytime use of Kapalua Airport. Helicopter tour companies who reap profits off of the adventure & beauty of the islands but never seem to give anything back to the very communities they expose. Then the noise pollution they bring at inconsiderate times of the day and at lower levels than they are allowed just to capture that one picturesque moment. A'ole!

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 10:48:12 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Debra Laeha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill. I live in Oahu, where we are **INUNDATED** by tour helicopters that have **DESTROYED** the peace and sanctity of our home. The State needs to focus on controlling tour helicopter operations vs. letting them expand to our other precious islands. The State needs to value Kamaaina over the tourist buck.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:38:38 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Pollak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB2891. I understand business and tourism brings large amounts of money to the islands, however it can't be at the cost of the quality of life to our residents. Helicopters and other tours have their place but they need to stay limited. The inhabitants of an island aren't animals in zoo to be bothered constantly. Everyone needs to be able to live their life in peace and enjoy nature as much as possible. Helicopter traffic is very intrusive for our entire population but especially tough on our Kūpuna who may have other health issues.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:37:28 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lee McCartan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against SB2891, as allowing such a bill would forever change West Maui and Moloka'i for the worse. Tour helicopters wreak both environmental and societal havoc that cannot be undone once it is in play. These tours already fly over east Moloka'i incessantly, abusing our local population in its path. Sadly, our Maui 'ohana is now being threatened as well. Even airspace directly above temporary schools for keiki displaced by the Lahaina fires aren't off-limits. Sadly, the vibrations and noise caused by these helicopters affect sensitive groups like our kūpuna, veterans, those with autism, PTSD and animals of all kinds disproportionately. Allowing helicopter tours to fly every 10-15 minutes, 365 days a year is utterly inhumane. No government should ever place the greed of tourism over that of public health.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:31:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bahar Yaghoubi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB2891. There are countless reasons that every single person we know on Molokai opposes the helicopter tours that already use our island's airspace, and for those same reasons we do not want this bill to pass and pave the way for even more. As the wife of a disabled combat veteran who struggles with PTSD, I do my best to keep him safe and protected. There's nothing I can do to protect him from these helicopters each and every time they fly far too low above us. For my husband and other veterans, the tour helicopters are no less triggering than the military aircraft that also invade our island's sky.

Shame on Senator Lee for introducing this bill, and shame on each and every politician who, against the best interests of this community, will still vote in favor of this bill.

Bahar Yaghoubi,

Molokai

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:11:44 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cora Currier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write as a member of the east Molokai community. We are negatively affected by overflights from helicopters from Maui on a daily basis, several per hour -- constant noise not to mention environmental effects and no benefit to the community. The helicopters regularly fly lower than the legal limits. We oppose the expansion of helicopter flights from Kapalua airport as it will certainly be used to increase flights over Molokai.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:04:18 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Reid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident neighboring the West Maui Airport, I am vehemently opposed to SB2891. Our community is still reeling from the aftermath of the largest fire in US history, which occurred just six months ago. Introducing helicopter tours from the west side at this time is wholly inappropriate as we continue to grieve and heal.

The healing process has begun with the construction of a temporary school adjacent to the airport, with plans for another school underway. However, the constant noise of helicopters throughout the day would be unbearable for students, teachers, and residents alike.

Moreover, the influx of tourists crowding the Kapalua airport and its surroundings is deeply disrespectful to the families who have endured so much. This is not the time to subject West Maui residents to further stress and anguish through incessant helicopter noise near our schools and homes.

I urge you to consider the profound impact this bill would have on our community and to prioritize the well-being and tranquility of West Maui residents during this sensitive time.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Blissard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2891. This bill benefits almost no-one but tour operators & is an enormous disturbance, and invasion for the citizens of Maui & Molokai. For anyone truly representing our community, you will vote against it. Pure and simple. Thank you.



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:53:37 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Burke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please dont allow changes to the operation of the West Maui Airport that would allow helicopters to fly in/out of there. The area is now the location of the replacement Lahaina Kam III School as well as a large housing development. It ludacrous to try to add comercial tourist operations into the mix never mind the noise factor from helicopters disrupting the kids.

Thank you,

Tim Burke

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:58:05 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Blissard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2891. This bill benefits almost no-one but tour operators & is an enormous disturbance, and invasion for the citizens of Maui & Molokai. For anyone truly representing our community, you will vote against it. Pure and simple. Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:37:43 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Burke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow this to happen. The new school is right below the airport. The kids have been through so much, and now we want to ask them to attend a school that has helicopters flying in and out all day. This will be so disruptive. Have respect for the teachers and the kids and the West Maui community. Do Not Let This Happen, please!

Why is this bill being introduced by people who don't even live here anyway?

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:16:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tiare lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Tiare Lawrence. Allowing helicopters to operate out of Kapalua is a horrible idea! Kapalua is located near residential homes and soon to be the temporary campus of Kamehameha the Third school. Helicopters would be a nuisance and will be met with opposition by residents. Please kill this bill immediately.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:28:54 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mizula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a longtime resident of Molokai (and Maui County) I am categorically opposed to SB2891. There are already too many tour helicopters buzzing too low above Molokai. Aside from the extreme and ongoing audio and visual disturbance that these private tour companies pose to the people of Molokai, we have already seen the sad reality that, even with experienced pilots, these tour helicopters can quickly turn into death machines as they closely buzz through Molokai's sacred valleys and above it's mountain ranges. How many people have to die in helicopter crashes during entirely unnecessary flights? Helicopter tours are not wanted in Molokai's skies, do not benefit this island, and are yet one more example of exploitative tourism threatening the health and wellbeing of Kanaka Maoli, other local residents, the 'āina, and the tourists aboard.

As a board member of the 501(c) (19) nonprofit veterans organization, Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans, I have learned that I am not alone in the extreme increase in stress and anxiety I feel every time there are low flying aircraft, including the tour helicopters that frequent Molokai's skies already. Veterans aren't the only residents with od Molokai with PTSD. There has been a long, sad history of helicopter and plane crashes here. There needs to be less nonessential air traffic above Molokai, not more. Really, there needs to be none, but to appease the tourist industry, certain politicians continue to prostitute every last inch of Hawai'i's land, water, and sky. We are left voiceless in our cries to end the flight of the Marine ospreys, but you, our elected representatives, are our voice to prevent the unnecessary risk of additional tourist excursions in Molokai's sky. We do not need more, we need none. We are also in critical need of mental health services on Molokai. Please, introduce legislation to help protect Kanaka Maoli like Nathaniel Naki, a beloved Molokai man who was murdered by police less than a year ago. We need an unarmed crisis response team here. We need a state-led effort to destigmatize mental illness. Nathaniel was not a threat. These tour helicopters are.

We need a dependable airline to provide flights to and from Maui and Oahu, which aren't regularly delayed or canceled. Molokai residents regularly need to spend multiple days in Honolulu for a 30 minute medical appointment. Instead of drafting legislation that will anger this entire community, please consider creating a state-owned public airline to ensure the people of Molokai aren't regularly left stranded.

It's pathetic that this community didn't find out of this legislation until the 11th hour.

Molokai deserves better than this. Shame on all who tried to sneak this bill through, and shame on all who vote for this bill and against the wishes of this community.

Please do the right thing and vote against SB2891

Jason R. Mizula

441 Uluaniu Road

Kaunakakai, HI 96748

808-292-7014

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:15:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jill M Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my testimony as a 33-year resident in Kahana Maui. I feel this would be horrible for our Kahana area community. Kahana is already dealing with horrific traffic since the fires and a much denser population. In addition, their putting in a much-needed temporary school for the fire victims. This addition will surely increase congestion to our already heavily traveled area of West Maui. WE absolutely need a school but to have the added air traffic and noise that surely going to be distracting for the kids in this new facility. Has there been an impact study made for this change is there an environmental concern for the West Maui mountains? Does this addition entail potential environmental concerns? We have heard nothibng about this bill and it seems shadey to say the least that it comes up in this way with no discussion for our Maui Ohana. Have we not bee through enough?

We strongly disagree with this bill.

Mahalo for your time,

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:09:52 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelcy Durbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

King Kamehameha III school will be opening after Spring Break 2024. The noise from the helicopters will disrupt class time. Helicopters should not be flying over or near the school or the residential areas around West Maui.

All helicopter tours operate out of Kahului. Why do helicopters operate out of Kapalua?



**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:00:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Lota	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2891. There should be NO helicopter operations out of kapalua, There is no need for it. Only in emergency situations. The helicopters are fine leaving to and from the airport.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:19:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Micaela Hogger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should not be allowing tourism to take precedence over the livelihood of students at the new public school's location. The noise level of helicopters is significant, and in very close proximity to the new school.

SB2891 has the potential to be detrimental to students learning as well as affecting surrounding residential areas' quality of life. Not only with noise, but also with safety concerns regarding traffic. there is still only one main road in and out of West Maui from surrounding areas, increasing traffic flow to Kapalua at this time could be dangerous in emergency situations. There should have been community discussion with the West Maui community on if they felt ready for increased tourism prior to this Bill being put up.

This should be a time to listen to the people in this community, and not push an outside tourism agenda. I strongly oppose SB2891, as it has not followed the correct steps of community input first and foremost and letting Lahaina lead in its path towards recovery.

**LATE**

**SB-2891**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:35 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2024 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chantell Cambia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello council,

Alongside its companion HB 1621, I oppose SB2891. You have neglected to reach out to communities in Kapalua on whether or not they consent to this bill.

The constant disturbance of noise and egregious decision made to consider this type of "transportation" for wealthy people who constantly privatize and exploit Hawaiian land.