

IT Committee

From: Diane A. Wakamatsu
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:19 PM
To: IT Committee
Cc: Laksmi M. Abraham; Alice L. Lee; Dianne E. Shimizu; Mona A. Perry; Kayna M. Yoneda
Subject: Relating to IT#72

Aloha,

Council Chair Alice Lee received this email message from Victor Pellegrino, regarding increasing helicopter noise disturbances in Waikapu. She would like to request that this email message be added to the item file (IT#72) on Granicus.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Diane

From: Victor <italiano@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 4, 2021 11:15 PM
To: Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>; Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>
Cc: italiano@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: RECENT INCREASE IN HELICOPTER FLYOVERS IN WAIKAPŪ AHUPUA‘A

Some people who received this message don't often get email from italiano@hawaii.rr.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

FROM: Victor C. Pellegrino
SUBJECT: RECENT INCREASE IN HELICOPTER FLYOVERS IN WAIKAPŪ
AHUPUA‘A
DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2021

I am writing each of you to once again increase your awareness about the continuing annoyance created by tour helicopters that make our once tranquil life in Waikapū ahupua‘a extremely miserable. The tour helicopter companies have no respect for those of us living below who must now be subjected to noise that is caused by regular helicopter flyovers—*seven days a week and on holidays*. I invite any of you to call me and visit our residential area to witness for yourself these annoying helicopters. You need not stay all day!

For your information, on November 27, 2021, we experienced 18* flyovers. Now that Covid-19 mandates are being relaxed, the number of helicopter flyovers has increased and, I am sure, they will continue to increase.

In mid-November I attended a special Hawaiian dedication ceremony on ‘āina in Waikapū. During the chanting by a native Hawaiian elder, the oli was rudely interrupted by a noisy tour helicopter. If you are ever in the presence of an oli, I am sure you understand the cultural significance and mana that are being shared, but on this occasion, with his every breath, he was drowned out—a violation of our right to hear his words during this sacred ceremony. I can detail other irritating interruptions, but suffice it to say, the example I have provided is a most grievous and disrespectful occurrence. Evidently helicopter owners and pilots have little concern for the residents who participate in a large number of indoor and outdoor activities, work, school, worship, *ad infinitum*.

I am hoping the committee has received and read all of the information I forwarded for review. I am hoping our local government will create workable solutions which will eliminate tour helicopter noise “for tourist dollars” and demonstrate concern for citizens’ well-being below. *We the long-time tax paying residents deserve to be listened to.*

Attached is a helpful analysis of helicopter noise: <https://verticalmag.com/features/the-science-behind-helicopter-noise-how-the-industry-is-working-to-reduce-it/>

I invite you to call or email me to arrange a visit to our residential area and to see and hear the excessive number of annoying helicopters that fly over the Waikapū ahupua‘a—sometimes beginning at 7:15 AM and continuing to 6:00 PM—and some times later. 808-344-0015 or italiano@hawaii.rr.com

In addition, on Zoom, our Waikapū Community Association will be discussing the issues of helicopter noise on December 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Please call Travis Polido, President, for specific information and to inform him of your interest and presence on Zoom: 808-298-4680.

Maui is a very special place. Tour helicopters have destroyed this special place—once a place of peace and quietude. Won’t you be so kind as to help us.

Sincerely and Mahalo,
Victor C. Pellegrino
Professor Emeritus, 1995
University of Hawaii, Maui Community College

* There were **18** helicopter flights on November 27, 2021: **7:30, 9:24, 9:36, 9:29, 9:36, 10:00, 10:45, 10:55, 11:22, 12:00, 12:10 + 7 more flyovers from 3:00-6:00**

