



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Western-Pacific Region  
Office of the Regional Administrator

777 S. Aviation Blvd., Suite 150  
El Segundo, CA 90245

January 24, 2022

Ms. Yuki Lei K. Sugimura  
Chair, Infrastructure and Transportation Committee  
County of Maui  
200 S. High Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2021, requesting that a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) representative attend an upcoming Infrastructure and Transportation Committee meeting. Unfortunately, at this time, the FAA is unable to support your request for participation. However, we are providing a written response to your questions below. As an alternative option, the FAA would also like to offer a meeting with the Infrastructure and Transportation Committee elected members, if further discussion is desired.

Answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**Flight path design:** Flight procedures are designed in accordance with FAA orders and regulations as outlined below.

- Preliminary activities include conducting baseline analysis and feasibility studies to identify expected benefits and determine if a conceptual procedure can be developed, within the criteria, for the proposed request.
- If the initial request is feasible, specialists coordinate with stakeholders to design a safe procedure that best meets the project objectives. Initial considerations for potential environmental impacts are analyzed during this step (e.g., identified noise abatement procedures and sensitive noise areas).
- Once the optimum procedure is designed, the FAA initiates an environmental review.
  - Environmental reviews are critical to managing the airspace while ensuring that potential environmental impacts, including noise, are properly analyzed. Airspace use and air traffic actions necessitate environmental reviews to obtain factual evidence of potential impacts regardless of the expected or perceived impacts. FAA environmental reviews follow the guidelines and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), related statutory and regulatory environmental laws, and internal FAA environmental policies.
  - The FAA conducts NEPA analysis with assistance from the Instrument Flight Procedure Environmental Pre-Screening Filter Tool (Filter). According to FAA Order 7400.2N, *Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters*, Chapter 32, the Filter can assist the FAA in determining the appropriate level of environmental review.

- If, after the NEPA review is completed, the FAA decides to implement the new or amended proposed procedures, the procedures are forwarded for final development, including quality control review, flight validation where required, and publication.
- Published procedures are monitored to ensure they perform as expected and then are reviewed periodically in accordance with maintenance cycle requirements.

**Recent changes to flight paths:** The FAA replaced the HAIKU ONE arrival route to the Kahului Airport (PHOG) with the LNDHY ONE on June 20, 2019. At the same time, the FAA amended the Area Navigation (RNAV) (Required Navigation Performance [RNP]) Z Runway (RWY) 2 approach procedure to accommodate the new location and resulting lower altitude of the LNDHY arrival route over the HOMAI waypoint (located approximately 0.77 nautical miles east of the intersection of Baldwin Avenue and Holomua Road). This change was made specifically for safety and moved an arrival route away from rising terrain.

**Ongoing discussions:** We have responded to formal correspondence related to Maui County, but have not had conversations about noise concerns relating to Maui County airport flight paths. If an airport is interested in initiating a permanent roundtable or a task force/ad hoc committee with a sunset date that engages with the local community, the FAA will work with that airport and that committee to engage appropriately.

The FAA has supported roundtables, task forces, and other similar forums which involve broad stakeholder representation, as appropriate venues to engage with communities on aviation noise concerns. Roundtables are typically sponsored by an airport or local government and are designed to make consensus recommendations to the FAA.

We would like to take this opportunity to promote the FAA Noise Portal for community complaints. The community can submit questions or comments regarding noise directly to the FAA by accessing the FAA Noise Portal at <https://noise.faa.gov/noise/pages/noise.html>.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions or need any further clarification. We look forward to working with Maui on future Hawaii airspace modernization and optimization efforts.

The FAA's mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. We continually strive to improve the safety and efficiency of flight in this country. If we can be of further assistance, please contact my office at (424) 405-7000.

Sincerely,



Raquel Girvin  
Regional Administrator