

IT Committee

From: Lara McGlashan <lara@mauimagazine.net>
Sent: Friday, July 8, 2022 9:21 AM
To: IT Committee
Subject: IT-72

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Aloha -

I was given your contact information from Councilwoman King's office and want to add some commentary to item IT-72 about Air traffic flight paths over Maui County.

I live in Central Kihei and have noticed a very large uptick recently in the number of incoming flights that are flying very very very low over north and central Kihei.

Previously, the incoming flights from the mainland would fly high over the center of the island, by the windmills and across the ag fields, then would make their turn/descent far out over the ocean and would approach the airport back the way they came, just lower.

Lately, however, the jets have instead been flying very very low over Kihei and making their turn directly over our homes, which is creating a lot of noise pollution and is disturbing what was once a peaceful area for locals to live. In fact, as I type this email, a jet has passed over my home every two minutes from 11:04 a.m. until right this minute. I can hear them putting on their brakes, lowering their landing gear, and reversing the engines with high pitched squeals in addition to the low, loud noise of the jets. I am regularly forced to close my windows in order to hear a phone call or the television, or even to hear my son talking to me from the other room. The planes fly low enough that I can easily see whether it's Hawaiian Airlines or Alaska or United that is arriving at 11:22 or what have you, which to me indicates that they are flying way too low.

I spoke to officials last week at the Kahului Airport who insist this is 'not a new flight pattern.' Their explanation for this insane noise increase is that if there is more than one flight landing at the same time, the plane 'might' take a wider approach over Kihei. Well, I can't imagine that in the last half an hour there were two dozen flights arriving simultaneously, warranting the wide, low approach all these planes are making over our homes. And at the very, very least, any plane flying over the island (rather than around it) should remain high enough so they are not ruining the quality of life of the residents who live here and pay taxes here. They should always make their descent and U-turn way out over the ocean where no one lives and where no one will be disturbed.

It is also worth noting that that there are (according to the air traffic folks at Kahului Airport) more than 120 flights arriving per day (!) on Maui. This is pretty disturbing, since by all accounts Maui has been trying to limit the insane influx of tourists arriving every week. Clearly, this is not happening.

In any case, this new flight pattern cannot become the norm, and the longer it is allowed to continue, the less likely it will be that we can make it stop.

Please let me know if you can help with this situation. I know that many of my neighbors are similarly enraged by this new problem, and are not going to tolerate it any longer. We very much wish our neighborhood, which is populated mostly by locals, can once again be peaceful.

I am not sure how often your committee meets, wanted to give you this information.

Mahalo,

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