

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 27, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 1069, SD1, HD1 Relating to Reduction of Noise from Helicopter Operations

SB 1069, SD1, HD1 offers a tax credit (in an undetermined amount) for installation of "noise canceling technology." Given the noise complaints that helicopters generate, this kind of approach might be welcome news, if it makes a meaningful difference.

I gather that House Judiciary decided to remove the provisions of SB 1069, SD1, which prohibited the flights of commercial tour helicopters within one mile of a residential neighborhood and limited the hours of a helicopter's operations. I regret that such prohibitions have been deleted, but must defer to your best judgment in this matter as to what can survive legal scrutiny and the legislative process.

I also must defer to the experts to suggest what the appropriate decibel level should be to qualify for the credit, and how much the credit should be. But I would ask this Committee to be as stringent as reasonably possible. To qualify for the benefit of a tax credit, the helicopter industry must become a responsible and considerate corporate member of our community, and it is not there yet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR