February 20, 2018

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2474, SD 1 Relating to Aviation Noise In and Around HVNP
Hearing Date: 02/21/18 – 10:08 am; Conference Room 211

I support SB 2474, SD 1, and thank you for giving it a hearing.

SB 2474, SD 1 would require that the Department of Health conduct a study on the impact of aviation noise on residents of the Puna District and surrounding areas of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HVNP). It also appropriates $200,000 to the Department of Health to conduct the study.

I know that funding is tight, but this noise issue is one of the most vexing that we face. Helicopters have been a source of endless complaints from communities that lie in the flight path to HVNP, and there should be no doubt that noise can constitute both a nuisance and a health hazard, especially in otherwise tranquil rural areas.

Tour companies that bear the brunt of the public’s ire could also benefit from such a study, if positive suggestions and/or compromises emerge from the study’s findings.

I have met with tour operators and asked them to develop a plan to address noise issues. They have taken some initial steps, and I commend them for that. Moreover, I am hopeful that tour operators and community members can work together. Having the study called for in SB 2474, SD 1 would be a positive way of moving the process forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawaii
SB-2474-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:20:18 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

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<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lani Hernandez</td>
<td>Individual</td>
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Comments:

Waste of money.