

**Hawaii Air Tour Noise & Safety Task Force
c/o Hawaii Department of Transportation/Airports Division
400 Rodgers Boulevard, Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1880**

August 28, 2020

Via Email: Jacqueline.conant@mail.house.gov

Congressman Ed Case
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Congressman Case:

Subject: Hawaii Air Tour Noise & Safety Task Force

Thank you for your letter of August 14, 2020. We understand your concerns and appreciate that you are giving a voice to the concerns of the broader community. The Task Force members have strongly expressed a desire for meaningful communication with members of the public and initially intended to seek in-person community meetings in the areas primarily affected by air tours on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii islands prior to seeking solutions so as not to overlook the individual characteristics of each of the communities. The series of meetings was anticipated to be facilitated by a consultant who would be engaged to help the Task Force develop solutions addressing noise.

The selection of the two Oahu communities (Pearl City for Sept. 22 and Kailua for Sept. 24) to start was prompted by input received from Task Force members, including our two state legislative representatives, and does not denote a priority level or exclusivity. COVID-19 interrupted plans to meet in communities across the state, but they are still intended to be addressed. We are attempting to resume our efforts to listen to community members and, if necessary, adjusting plans based on the first two meetings.

Please know that the RFP for a task force consultant was delayed due to the pandemic. The unprecedented challenges to address the state's screening of passengers confronted by the Department of Transportation have been hurdles but we are working through them and are committed to advancing the purpose of the Task Force. In the meantime, we asked representatives of the FAA to prepare materials for presentation at the upcoming virtual public meetings about several of the questions you highlighted, including the altitude restrictions and flight paths. A preliminary version of the slides was provided to the task force executive committee members in June with the expectation that corrections, if any, would be made prior to its posting on the Task Force website with the public meeting materials. We are attaching a preliminary copy of those materials here. We know that your letter includes other questions which we are committed to addressing when we have sufficient information to do so. We have the highest regard for responding to all the questions raised and will provide as much information as we can as soon as we can.

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We will be asking you and the other members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation if they wish to present for 5 minutes at the opening of the community meetings along with the Task Force organizations and advisors. Please do let us know if you would like to do so.

With appreciation,



Alex Tamoria
Co-Chairperson

Attachment

c: Ford Fuchigami, Co-Chairperson