



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 29, 2019

Congressman Ed Case  
2443 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard  
300 Ala Moana Blvd #5-10  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Senator Mazie Hirono  
Senate Office Building  
B-40E Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20501

Senator Brian Schatz  
Senate Office Building  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Aloha,

As you know, a commercial helicopter crashed this morning in one of the busiest residential areas in State House District 50. This is the second helicopter crash in my District since Oct. 22, 2018. Sadly, three people were killed in today's crash. Three people were severely injured in the Oct. crash. Both helicopters were owned by Novictor Helicopters. Additionally, less than two weeks ago, another commercial helicopter on contract to DLNR went down in Windward Oahu in a "hard landing".

***I am asking for your help in immediately grounding tour and commercial helicopter operations in our State until an investigation can be completed regarding today's tragedy.*** Since the FAA is the governing authority over airspace, this is best initiated through Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.

Residents throughout our State have long complained about the lack flight plans and rules regulating commercial and tour helicopters. Concerns vary from general annoyance to fears of aircraft falling from the sky. Today their worst fears were realized. As elected officials it is our responsibility to protect our constituents. We must act now.

Mahalo for your prompt action,

Representative Cynthia Thielen  
50<sup>th</sup> District (Kailua, Kaneohe Bay)