



Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force

**April 20, 2026**

# **Meeting of the HANASTF**

Co-Chairs Representative Darius Kila and Senator Lorraine Inouye

# Agenda for Today



- **Welcome**
  - Purpose & Charter
  - Task Force Advisors & Experts
- **Federal Law Overview**
  - 49 U.S.C. § 40103
  - Hawaii Act 311
  - FAA Reauthorization Overview
- **Outcomes From 2021 Task Force**
- **Next Steps**
  - Proposed Next Steps
  - Meeting Calendar
  - Tasks for June 15 meeting
- **Closing**



# Welcome

Co-Chairs:

Senator Lorraine Inouye

Representative Darius Kila

# Introduction of Task Force Members



Position	Members
Co-Chairs	<b>Sen. Lorraine Inouye</b> <b>Rep. Darius Kila</b>
State of Hawaii, Dept. of Transportation (HDOT)	<b>Traci Lum</b>
State of Hawaii, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD)	<b>David Kobayashi</b>
Vertical Aviation International	<b>Katia Veraza</b>
Tour Operator Program of Safety (TOPS)	<b>Eric Hamp</b>
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)	<b>To Be Appointed</b>
General Aviation Council of Hawaii (GACH)	<b>To Be Appointed</b>
Community Representatives (appointed by the Task Force Co-chairs)	<b>To Be Appointed</b>
Administrative team	

# Purpose & Charter

## PURPOSE

- In alignment with the intent of Hawaii Act 311 of Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH)
- 2022, the purpose of the Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force (Task Force) is to **address community concerns** related to **safety risks and noise disruptions** arising from air tour operations by helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft.
- While separate from the formal requirements of Act 311, the Task Force's efforts are guided by the principles and objectives outlined in the Act.



## CHARTER

**PURPOSE:** In alignment with the intent of Hawaii Act 311 of Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2022, the purpose of the Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force (Task Force) is to address community concerns related to safety risks and noise disruptions arising from air tour operations by helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft. While the Task Force is not legally required to comply with Act 311, its efforts are informed and guided by the principles and objectives outlined in the Act.

**OBJECTIVES:** To submit a preliminary report to the Hawaii State Legislature with its findings and recommendations for addressing aircraft noise and safety concerns. Additionally, the Task Force will provide input to the Hawaii State Department of Transportation (HDOT) for consideration as it undertakes the Statewide General Aviation System Plan (SGASP). The SGASP will include recommendations on federal actions as well as statewide guidance and standards for noise, safety, zoning, and land use compatibility. The outcomes of the SGASP are intended to support the Task Force in formulating and delivering its findings and consensus-based recommendations.

**SCOPE:** The Task Force will convene for a maximum of 24 months. The Task Force shall convene monthly via virtual meetings to collect and review data and public comments regarding helicopter and small aircraft noise and safety concerns in Hawaii. The Task Force shall provide opportunities for members of the public to share their opinions through oral and/or written testimony. This information will be analyzed and considered as the Task Force reports their findings and recommendations to the Task Force Co-Chairs and HDOT.

# Advisors & Invited Experts

- Co-Chairs and Task Force Members preliminarily approved the following **technical advisors** and invited **subject matter experts** and **community stakeholders** to be invited to the June 15 meeting.
- Ample notice is needed to ensure adequate advance notice.

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## PROPOSED TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO THE TASK FORCE

Advisors are non-voting participants. Attendance is encouraged but is not required for the work of the Task Force.

1. Hawaii State Department of Transportation Airports representative
2. Federal Aviation Administration representative
3. National Transportation Safety Board representative
4. Senator Mazie Hirono or designee
5. Senator Brian Schatz or designee
6. Representative Ed Case or designee
7. Representative Jill Tokuda or designee
8. Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Air Traffic Control representative
9. Schofield Barracks Air Traffic Control representative
10. Wheeler Army Airfield Air Traffic Control representative
11. Marine Corps Base Hawaii Air Traffic Control representative
12. U.S. Coast Guard representative
13. Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol

# Federal Law Overview

The Big Picture

# 49 U.S.C. § 40103

## 49 U.S.C. § 40103 SOVEREIGNTY AND USE OF AIRSPACE

- (a) Sovereignty and Public Right Of Transit
- (b) Use of Airspace

(B) as the representative of the State before the Secretary of Transportation in any matter about which the Secretary is required to consult with or consider the views of a State authority under subpart II of this part.

(40) "ticket agent" means a person (except an air carrier, a foreign air carrier, or an employee of an air carrier or foreign air carrier) that as a principal or agent sells, offers for sale, negotiates for, or holds itself out as selling, providing, or arranging for, air transportation.

(41) "United States" means the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States, including the territorial sea and the overlying airspace.

(b) LIMITED DEFINITION.—In subpart II of this part, "control" means control by any means.

### § 40103. Sovereignty and use of airspace

(a) SOVEREIGNTY AND PUBLIC RIGHT OF TRANSIT.—(1) The United States Government has exclusive sovereignty of airspace of the United States.

(2) A citizen of the United States has a public right of transit through the navigable airspace. To further that right, the Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792) before prescribing a regulation or issuing an order or procedure that will have a significant impact on the accessibility of commercial airports or commercial air transportation for handicapped individuals.

(b) USE OF AIRSPACE.—(1) The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall develop plans and policy for the use of the navigable airspace and assign by regulation or order the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. The Administrator may modify or revoke an assignment when required in the public interest.

(2) The Administrator shall prescribe air traffic regulations on the flight of aircraft (including regulations on safe altitudes) for—

- (A) navigating, protecting, and identifying aircraft;
- (B) protecting individuals and property on the ground;
- (C) using the navigable airspace efficiently; and
- (D) preventing collision between aircraft, between aircraft and land or water vehicles, and between aircraft and airborne objects.

(3) To establish security provisions that will encourage and allow maximum use of the navigable airspace by civil aircraft consistent with national security, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(A) establish areas in the airspace the Administrator decides are necessary in the interest of national defense; and

(B) by regulation or order, restrict or prohibit flight of civil aircraft that the Administrator cannot identify, locate, and control with available facilities in those areas.

(4) Notwithstanding the military exception in section 553(a)(1) of title 5, subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 applies to a regulation prescribed under this subsection.

Regulations.

# 49 U.S.C. § 40103 (a) Sovereignty and Public Right Of Transit



- 1) The United States Government has **exclusive sovereignty of airspace** of the United States.
- 2) A citizen of the United States has a public right of transit through the navigable airspace.



# 49 U.S.C. § 40103 (b) Use of Airspace



- 1) The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall develop plans and policy for the use of the navigable airspace and assign by regulation or order the use of the airspace necessary to **ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace**. The Administrator may modify or revoke an assignment when required in the public interest.
  
- 2) The Administrator shall prescribe **air traffic regulations** on the flight of aircraft (including regulations on safe altitudes) for —
  - a) navigating, protecting, and identifying aircraft;
  - b) protecting individuals and property on the ground;
  - c) using the navigable airspace efficiently; and
  - d) preventing collision between aircraft, between aircraft and land or water vehicles, and between aircraft and airborne objects.

# Hawaii Act 311

*Why are we Following It?*



## SECTION 3

- a) There is established an air noise and safety task force in the office of planning and sustainable development for administrative purposes.
- b) The task force shall:
  - 1) [Collect and review data on tour aircraft operations submitted to the department of transportation pursuant to section 261-] and any other information related to aircraft noise and safety that may be available;
  - 2) Collect and **review public complaints** regarding aircraft noise and safety;
  - 3) **Identify key noise and safety issues** facing Hawaii relating to aircraft;
  - 4) **Make recommendations** to address aircraft noise and safety issues to the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, and other appropriate federal agencies;
  - 5) Make recommendations to address business practices and operators of aircraft falling within state and local jurisdiction; and
  - 6) Make recommendations to address aircraft noise and safety issues to aircraft operators.

# FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024

*What is the FAA's role in this effort?*



## Section 364

Aligns with Hawaii Act 311

## HANASTF

Allows FAA to participate as a technical advisor

## Rulemaking

FAA to consider HANASTF recommendations through rulemaking

## Actions for Considerations

Quieter aircraft, public noise reporting, and air tour operational guidance.

(Sec. 364) This section directs the FAA to participate as a technical advisor in the Hawaii air noise and safety task force, to the extent acceptable to the state of Hawaii. Following the task force's delivery of findings and consensus recommendations to the FAA, the FAA must take action (e.g., issue an intent to proceed with a proposed rulemaking) or issue a statement determining that no such rule or other action is warranted.

# Outcomes from 2021 Task Force

A Possible Framework  
(Administrator)

# 2021 Task Force Outcomes



## Main Topics:

Equipment

Pilot Training

Routes

Flight paths

Number of flights

Hours of operations

Flight holidays

Communications

Complaints

Reporting

## Key Questions Discussed:

- What actions can be taken to increase safety and reduce noise?
- What are other jurisdictions (states scan) doing regarding the topic?
- What organizations or experts have information on the topic?
- What agency or body of government has the authority to address this topic?

# HANASTF

## Next Steps

Schedule

# HANASTF Proposed Meeting Topics



FAA	ARC	States Scan	Legal Presentation
<p>The Task Force has requested a presentation on classes of airspace from the FAA. This is targeted for the June 15 meeting.</p>	<p>The Task Force could also request a presentation from the Aviation Rulemaking Committee.</p>	<p>The Task Force can request or prepare a comparison of other jurisdictions' regulations.</p>	<p>A briefing can be requested by the Co-Chairs from the Attorney General on areas of state versus federal jurisdiction</p>

# 2026 Meetings and Format



## Public Meetings:

APRIL 20	JUNE 15	AUGUST 17	OCTOBER 19	DECEMBER 14
State Capitol In person / Hybrid	Virtual	Virtual	<i>Tentative</i> Skip / Reserved	State Capitol In person / Hybrid

# Tasks for June 15 Meeting



- Seating of community members to Task Force
- Invitations to Task Force Advisors and Invited Experts
- Public meeting announcement via website, news media, and other communications to promote engagement
- Presentations by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and/or Air Traffic Control
- Update Task Force website

A screenshot of the HANA STF website homepage. The header includes the HANA STF logo and a search bar. A dark blue navigation bar contains links for HOME, MISSION AND GOALS, CALENDAR, MEMBERSHIP, RESOURCES, and CONTACT. The main content area features a "Welcome!" section with a paragraph about the task force's mission, a "Recent Updates" section with a sub-header, and two call-to-action buttons: "Have a message for the Task Force? Submit a comment." and "Want to know the Task Force schedule? View the meeting calendar." A map of Hawaii is visible on the right side of the page.

**HANA STF**  
Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force

Search...

HOME MISSION AND GOALS CALENDAR MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES CONTACT

## Welcome!

By bringing together lawmakers, subject matter experts, government agencies, and community members, the Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force (HANASTF or Task Force) aims to address community concerns related to safety risks and noise disruptions arising from air tour operations by helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft.

The Task Force provides a forum to learn about and address this complicated issue, and while not legally required, the Task Force's efforts are informed and guided by the principles and objectives outlined in Hawaii Revised Statutes [Act 311 \(2022\)](#).

## Recent Updates

Stay informed with the latest from HANASTF.

Welcome to the Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force (HANASTF) site.

Have a message for the Task Force? [Submit a comment.](#)

Want to know the Task Force schedule? [View the meeting calendar.](#)

# Closing



## Co-Chairs:

Senator Inouye

Representative Kila

<https://hanastf.com/>





Hawaii Air Noise and Safety Task Force

# MAHALO

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