

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Air Tour Management Plan/EIS
Public Meeting
Pahoa Community Center
April 19, 2011

Attendance: (See sign-in sheet)

42 public sign-in; Staff: 7 NPS; 1 FAA; 1 Volpe

- "Will all the new comments be posted on the ATMP website?"
- "LOA or letters of agreement to protect areas along boundaries of the park. Park Service and Air Tour agreement."
- "Establish a helo pad near park which would limit air tour routes outside park, lessen cost of fuel for tour companies and lessen impact on entire park."
- "How come a business operation can take away peace and quiet?"
- How come "Green Harvest" doesn't have to do a management plan?"
- "No FAA enforcement"
- "Flights are too low. Routes over Waa Waa subdivision used as shortcut instead of going over coast/ocean"
- "Adverse impacts to wilderness experience and natural sounds around Kilauea."
- "Natural sounds adverse impact outside the park and low flights increasing."
- "All flights should be 5000 Ft. AGL and 5000 Ft offshore for entire island."
- "What economic benefit does helicopter industry give back to benefit the community."
- "If fee every time we visit the park?"
- "Does average person know how much is paid in fees and where the money goes in the park?"
- "Fix the rulebreakers/enforce those who are flying too low."

- “Have fee (on air tours) so people can use it to come into the park on the ground later.”
- “That helps the whole community.”
- “We need a comprehensive economic impact for the alternatives. Consider the greater good for the greatest numbers.”
- “Why does the EIS stop a ½ mile outside the park when the pollution this program creates extends all the way back to the airports?”
- “Use over ocean routes, not over residential areas.”
- “ Over ocean routes at least 2 mi. off-shore.”
- “Past comments are not reflected in current alternatives!”
- Keep comments on ATMP web page to compare against alts.
- “Why were all the previous comments scrubbed from the FAA’s ATMP website and how can we get them back?”
- “Routes should be on ocean routes.”
- “Don’t mind Puu Oo, but keep out of backcountry or anyplace accessible by foot or car.”
- “Keep out of park completely takes care of the issues.”
- “Raise ceiling of flights, flying at treetop above Eden Roc.”
- “Kaohe Homesteads is very impacted and has been from air tours.”
- “No other tour business is allowed to go through my yard.”
- “Should go to lottery system to minimize # of daily tours.”
- “Consider times of day when there are absolutely no flights and zero impact.”
- “HVNP Superintendent Orlando recently wrote that some of the entrance fees from air tours are being used for “air tour monitoring and reporting”. What are they doing?”
- “Quality of life for residents and our natural resources is taking the backseat for a commercial enterprise and the desires of a quick view by a

transient tourist industry. Some things are very wrong with this picture. I vote helipad in or near the park.”

- “Keep flights over ocean (not over land-wilderness, populated areas).”
- “Days when flight ceiling is low, why isn’t IFR used?”
- “Move helipad to lava viewing/end of county area, so they don’t fly over people and homes.”
- “Fly down Highway 130.”
- “Cumulative decibels is important (all day, all week, etc.)
- “If we were mice in a cage, we would be protected by some law, but we aren’t for this issue.”
- “We need better tracking of individual helicopters and their routes, then change routes, elevations/etc. to reduce impact on people.”
- “Heliport in lower Puna.”
- “Use new technology for tracking and regist. For flight routes.”
- “Flight routes to be flexible re natural resource issues, visitor use in backcountry areas.”
- “Weather issues-cancel flights but don’t drop to lower agl.”
- “Sometimes when we complain about air tours, it seems to increase numbers over us.”
- “Need to have an immediate moratorium until ATMP is completed because it has taken too long.”
- “HPP has been so much worse in the last year (14th and Makuu).
- “Big Moon. 12 helicopters (See letter)
- “In park, no air flights should occur where there is a heavily populated areas or roads or visitors.”
- “Community has a noise issue going to/from park”
- “Need some sort of emergency plan that everyone knows about like TFR so air tours know not supposed to fly ie last Napau eruption.”

- “Lots of tourists bring \$”
- “Could park and county and FAA work on a plan to get flights to and from park less obtrusive”
- “Tracking on helicopter to id flying patterns by pilots ensures accountability.”
- “Encourage flight tracking in bidding if air tours were limited.”
- “Don’t encourage flights over Desig. Wilderness areas or communities.”
- “How do present alts impact adjoining land owners?”
- “How do these alts account for eruptions outside Puu Oo? (other rift zones, Mauna Loa)”
- “Not only the summit is sacred-need to consider other areas that are culturally significant/important.”
- General Comments: “Large “N” numbers on bottom of helo for identification in sharply contrasting colors.”
- “Maps suck. They don’t show alternative flight paths in relation to existing homes/communities.”
- “Build a heliport at Volcano NP and have tour companies shuttle visitors there for a helicopter ride.”
- “I support the “No fly” alternative. We have suffered for 20 plus years while air tours get rich-and never give back to the affected residents. ‘nuff already!”
- “Establish an SFAR over Puna residential areas ”no fly zone”
- “Why do all these proposals put my neighborhood (Kaimu) in the “Puu Oo concentrated flight zone”? Where did this designation come from? Who had the authority to do it?” And what does it mean? And what does it do to our property values?”
- “Look at addressing noise issue in other ways-let industry help make their machines quieter.”
- Operator: “I could live with one day a week no fly.”

- “Closer helispot so not flying over our residences.”
- “Compile and distribute comments from this.”
- “Access from ocean only.”
- “Put topo lines on maps (will help see what routes are even feasible.”
- “Moratorium on all flights over residential areas until NPS makes a decision on ATMP (x2).”
- “Competitive bid should include requirement for individual helicopters to ensure compliance w/routes, elevations etc.”
- “Helicopters should have “roads” they have to stick to.
- “There should be economic compensation/taxes eg property taxes paid by companies for people in flight paths.”
- “Since the US Congress decided that air tours are so intrusive that an EIS must be created for the park, will the individual air tour operators be required to get state EIS’s to get from the airports to HVNP?”
- “Need to look at greatest good for greatest number”
- “In a place with melting pot of culture/ideology people who have no voice, comes down to power and control =\$. Have to consider economic impact. Take a bigger look. If economy suffers from banning air tours, how does that affect.”
- “Take a look at the hardship for an operator, Look through their eyes.”
- “Unfair balance to restrict business, too much regulation.”
- Other comment: “People on bikes have to pay entrance fees. Green users should pay less.”
- “Punaweb.org-“Post notices on the forum. History of noise problems on this site also-do search and will be able to see the conversations. “
- “Community is getting \$35+ - million dollars invested in island communities/=taxes for schools etc.”
- “Give \$ to fire fighters/rescues.”
- “ For every aircraft, there is 6 or 7 people employed that they don’t see”

- “Nobody complains about motorcycles or boom boxes. FAA is looked at like the “bull’s eye”. I can’t complain.”
- “This is not a forum for neighborhood noise issues. How many of these complaints are from people who came to the park/ever been in the park?”