

NATIONAL PARKS

Hawaiians, federal worker group sue over air tour noise

Published: Thursday, October 5, 2017

A federal worker organization and Hawaii residents launched a lawsuit yesterday against the Federal Aviation Administration to make it regulate tour helicopters that buzz over communities in the state and national parks throughout the country.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Hawaii Island Coalition Malama Pono want FAA to draft plans or voluntary agreements to govern air tours in seven parks by two years from now.

"It's really nerve-rattling. It's offensive. It makes your life miserable," said Bob Ernst, a founding member of the Hawaii Island Coalition who lives under a flight path of the tour helicopters.

The groups say in the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., that FAA has not created air tour plans for any national park as required by the National Park Air Tour Management Act of 2000. Some parks are exempted by a 2012 law that excludes parks with fewer than 50 flights a year.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park saw nearly 16,000 tour flights last year.

An FAA spokesman said the agency would not comment on pending litigation (Audrey McAvoy, [Associated Press](#), Oct. 5). — NS

Want to read more stories like this?

[Click here](#) to start a free trial to E&E -- the best way to track policy and markets.

ABOUT GREENWIRE – THE LEADER IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E News. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.



E&E News

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 202-628-6500 Fax: 202-737-5299

www.eenews.net

All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced or retransmitted without the express consent of Environment & Energy Publishing, LLC. [Click here](#) to view our privacy policy.