May 28, 2019

Daniel K. Elwell  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Subj: Industry Concerns Regarding Proposal to “Ground” Hawaii Helicopter Operations

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell,

On behalf of the 3,000-plus members of the Helicopter Association International I’d like to take this opportunity to comment on recent congressional correspondence submitted to Raquel Girvin, Regional Administrator, FAA Western-Pacific Region, requesting immediate grounding of all Hawaii tour and commercial helicopters pending outcome of the investigation of the Robinson R-44 helicopter crash that occurred in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu on April 29, 2019.

HAI opposes, in the strongest language possible, any proposal for an unsubstantiated shut down of the entire tour and commercial helicopter industry in Hawaii. Commercial helicopter operations in Hawaii include a multitude of diverse missions conducted by a variety of aircraft types (manufacturers, makes and models). As such, it would be inappropriate and unfounded to ground all commercial helicopter operations in the State based on one incident.

The April 29, 2019 accident was a sad and tragic event and needs to be fully investigated. HAI remains unwavering in its support for the FAA and NTSB as the efforts continue to examine the circumstances of the accident. It is our hope that the facts of the case will provide the FAA and the industry a clear picture of what led to fatal event, as well as information that can be used to improve flight safety across the industry.

I thank you for your attention on this issue.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Zuccaro  
President & CEO  
Helicopter Association International