



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII
BOX 63002
KANEHOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863-3002

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5830
OGC
April 28, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY - DHENKIN@EARTHJUSTICE.ORG

Mr. David L. Henkin
Staff Attorney
Earthjustice Mid-Pacific
850 Richards Street, Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Henkin:

I am responding on behalf of the Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, to your letter of March 28, 2017, regarding United States Marine Corps (USMC) air operations at Upolu Airport (UPP) on Hawaii Island.

Following careful review of the situation, Hawaii-based USMC aircraft will return to the projected estimated number of 25 routine administrative operations per year at UPP. This is the number identified in the 2012 "MV-22 and H-1 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Basing of MV-22 and H-1 Aircraft in Support of III MEF Elements in Hawaii" (FEIS).¹

Given the number of MV-22 operations that have already occurred at UPP this calendar year, the USMC will limit its use of UPP for the remainder of this calendar year to only emergency landings and required weather diversions. These uses are fully consistent with the status of UPP as a Federal Aviation Administration certified state-owned airport.

The USMC is re-evaluating its training requirements in Hawaii. One possible result of is the initiation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to the 2012 FEIS. Any such action may propose changed or increased USMC air operations at UPP and other locations compared to those set out in the 2012 FEIS.

¹ As set out in the public comments received to the 2012 FEIS, <http://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil/Portals/114/WebDocuments/MV22/Final%20EIS%20Waiting%20Period%20Comments.pdf>, there was no comment which explicitly objected to the USMC's identified 25 projected routine administrative operations per year at UPP.

The USMC believes it has responded in good faith to the concerns identified in your letter. Should you have any questions on this response, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at steven.forjohn@usmc.mil or by telephone at (808) 257-7087.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.K. Forjohn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven K. Forjohn
Counsel