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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Maui

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OST-2000-6773-25
OST-1997-2633-45

December 21, 2004

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany, Chief,
Essential Air Service Division, X53; Room 6401
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. DeVany:

Thank you for your letter dated December 13, 2004 regarding essential air service at Kalaupapa and Hana. I appreciate the update and the opportunity to provide comments before you finalize your selection on a carrier proposal and service option for a new two-year period beginning December 1, 2004.

Air transportation for the rural and underserved communities in Maui County is a great concern for our residents especially in the area of Hana, Lanai and Moloka'i. We have received written complaints from residents expressing their concern about the high cost of air transportation and the lack of flights available to them.

Hana and Kalaupapa is a perfect example of an underserved community where air transportation is a service that the residents desire and would utilize if flights were made available to residents at an affordable rate.

It is important that when services are being considered for Hana and Kalaupapa, the amount of flights made available to the residents is of high priority. If residents and visitors alike are aware of air transportation services available to these areas, it is my belief that those services will be utilized.

Please feel free to call me directly if you have any questions or concerns. Again, thank you for the consideration and please inform me of your final decision on a carrier for these areas.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Arakawa
MAYOR, COUNTY OF MAUI

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