



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Bali Hai Helicopter Tours Bell 206B, Kalaheo, Hawaii

Operational Factors
Scott Erickson

Company information

- Family owned
- Two helicopters, two pilots
- 4,500 to 8,500 passengers annually

Company Facilities



Maintenance practices

- Numerous discrepancies
- After accident, FAA revoked mechanic's certificate, fined company
- No requirement for FAA review of company's maintenance practices

FAA Oversight of Part 91

- Tours under 25-mile, nonstop sightseeing exception
- No required FAA surveillance
- Safety issues unidentified and uncorrected

Honolulu FSDO

- Geographical Surveillance Unit (GSU) formed in 1995
- Chronic staffing issues
- GSU disbanded in 2003

Continued Oversight Concerns

- 1995 NTSB Special Investigation Report (SIR) of air tour industry
- 2003 FAA issued notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM)
- February 8, 2007, FAA issued final rule and Part 136 air tour safety standards
- Part 91 tour operations allowed



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