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Protest and Petition: Noise Pollution Caused by Futenma Air Station and Enforcement of Discipline on  
Military Servicemembers

Futenma Air Station stands in the middle of our city and side by side with our downtown area exposing citizens to the risk of aircraft accidents and noise pollution that greatly affect our quality of life. The severity of the recent security environment surrounding Japan including Okinawa is increasing and we understand that the current training by the U.S. military is necessary for security. However, noise from jet fighters and non-tenant aircraft after 22:00 causes serious trauma to the citizens and the city receives many complaints from them.

Although, a revised and stricter liberty order took effect on October 1, 2024, after a series of sexual assaults by U.S. troops, other alcohol-related incidents and accidents have not ceased even now. There was another incident on November 16, 2024, where an intoxicated U.S. Marine lance corporal belonging to Futenma Air Station entered into a business facility in Naha City without permission and was arrested on charges of trespassing.

The citizens are forced to live with the burden of hosting the military bases, such as being exposed to the noise pollution of U.S. military aircraft on a daily basis. I must say that such incidents add to their burden and fear, which should never be allowed.

I cannot accept the current situation from the standpoint of safeguarding the lives and properties of 100,000 citizens. I strongly protest and appeal the following.

1. Prohibit the flight of non-tenant aircraft, including jet fighters, which has enormous impact on the lives of citizens. Strictly adhere to the Futenma Air Station Aircraft Noise Abatement Countermeasures, agreed upon by the governments of Japan and the United States, and give maximum consideration to the local community.
2. Demand the thorough enforcement of official discipline and education to U.S. military personnel and civilians and take every measure to prevent the recurrence of incidents and accidents.
3. Take viable measures for the prompt closure, return, and immediate cease of operation of the Futenma Air Station, responding to our citizens' call for a fundamental solution to the problem. Decide the date of return at the earliest, eliminate the dangers and mitigate the costs associated with hosting the base until its return, as demanded by our citizens.

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