

(Note: Following the original Japanese format and layout.)

A Resolution to Protest against the Landing of a U.S. Marine Corps UH1 Helicopter
on the Grounds of the Kyoda Baseball Field in Nago City

At around 8:20 p.m. on March 6, 2026, a UH1 helicopter based at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma landed on the grounds of a baseball field in Kyoda, Nago City. The landing site was only about 30 m away from a residential area. Because children were on the baseball field at the time, the landing caused strong anxiety and fear among local residents.

In recent years, the U.S. Marine Corps has repeatedly caused accidents and trouble and made emergency landings. The prefectural assembly has lodged serious protests and requested measures to prevent recurrence on multiple occasions. Since the landing site is a public facility used daily by residents, a minor error could have resulted in serious casualties. The incident is the result of the fact that low-altitude flights over residential areas, which are prohibited under Japan's Civil Aeronautics Act, are routinely performed as part of training under the Aviation Special Measures Act based on the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

Information about the incident available from the U.S. Marine Corps is entirely inadequate. No clear explanation has been given about efforts to investigate the cause and measures to prevent recurrence. The Japanese and U.S. governments should fully inspect and maintain aircraft in active service and ensure the integrity of safety control systems with a greater sense of responsibility. They should also provide clear explanations to residents in the prefecture.

Accordingly, the prefectural assembly issues this strong statement of protest against the incident and urges that the following actions be taken promptly:

1. Promptly publicize the cause and lead-up to the incident.
2. Strictly follow the system for reporting incidents and quickly provide sufficient information.
3. Thoroughly review the maintenance and inspection system for aircraft operated by the U.S. Marine Corps, publicize the results, and ensure effective safety control.
4. Clearly present measures for preventing recurrence and ensure the safety of local residents.
5. Overhaul the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement, including prohibiting flight training of aircraft operated by the U.S. Marine Corps over residential areas.

We passed the resolution as set forth above.

March 27, 2026

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly