

Mitchell Rasmussen  
Air Safety Investigator  
AS - ANC

**Date:** 05/23/2024  
**Subject:** ANC24LA035, Pilot Interview  
**Contact:** Katie Waito, Pilot Onboard

Ms. Waito stated that the accident airplane owner approached her and her boyfriend, Dan Williams, at their hangar asking about hangar space. They got into a 20-minute conversation after which the accident airplane's owner, Cody Harkins, offered to take her for a ride in his new airplane. Ms. Waito stated that it was her understanding that she was to be a passenger on the flight. She stated that she sat in the right seat and had her seat set back to where she could not reach the rudder pedals. Ms. Waito stated that the accident airplane owner applied full power and held the brakes. She believed that he was on the brakes for the entire takeoff run. Ms. Waito stated that they never left the ground, the airplane veered right, crossed a taxiway, hit a fence, and flipped onto its back. During the accident sequence, she stated that she attempted to pull power but was unable to, as the owner was "froze-up" on the throttle and held full power through the entire accident sequence. Ms. Waito stated that she believed, had she been able to reach the controls, she could have possibly prevented the accident. Ms. Waito stated that she did not know Mr. Harkins was a student pilot. Ms. Waito stated that there were no mechanical issues with the airplane.