
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AIR TRAVEL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii has led the nation in mitigating the
2 climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Hawaii's
3 commitment toward achieving carbon neutrality or negativity by
4 2045 was a nationwide first. In 2021, the Hawaii state
5 legislature became the first legislature in the nation to
6 declare a climate emergency. A critical test of the State's
7 commitment to the environment will come as Hawaii attempts to
8 confront the environmental effects of a key element of Hawaii's
9 economy: the reliance on tourism.

10 The legislature also finds that a key environmental
11 consequence of Hawaii's tourism-based economy is the carbon load
12 released into the atmosphere from air travel. Until recently,
13 no studies of carbon emissions from air transport of visitors
14 have been widely reported. However, since 2021, four
15 independent, casual examinations of this topic have emerged, one
16 of which was reported in a respected news medium, Honolulu Civil
17 Beat, and two of which were presented to the city and county of



1 Honolulu's climate change commission. The greenhouse gas
2 emission values calculated compare significantly with the total
3 of Hawaii's net domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

4 Thus, questions arise as to the ultimate utility of
5 converting all of Hawaii's ground transportation to electric
6 vehicles or all electricity generation to solar or wind if
7 Hawaii continues to invite visitors with accompanying emissions
8 that dwarf these domestic sources of emissions. Still, others
9 have observed that Hawaii's response to sea level rise and other
10 corollaries of global warming will incur expenditures of many
11 billions of dollars. If visitation to Hawaii generates more
12 greenhouse gas emissions than all of Hawaii's domestic emission
13 sources combined, then visitors to Hawaii should become a
14 prominent source of revenues for mitigation of the impacts of
15 climate change on Hawaii's built environment. At the foundation
16 of any response must come a full understanding of the degree of
17 global warming emissions incurred by visitation to Hawaii. It
18 is this understanding that a study of the global warming
19 emissions from air transport of visitors to Hawaii will serve to
20 clarify. Thus, Hawaii's leadership and the public's apparent
21 lack of understanding of the magnitude of air transportation



1 associated with tourism's effects on global warming demands that
2 a formal, state supported study be performed of this subject
3 with findings presented to legislature, the executive branch,
4 and the public.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
6 mitigation of climate effects of commercial air transportation
7 task force to identify, analyze, and make recommendations to
8 mitigate the carbon load of, contributions to global warming
9 made by, and effects on the climate caused by commercial air
10 travel to the State.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
12 of health for administrative purposes the mitigation of climate
13 effects of commercial air transportation task force to identify,
14 analyze, and make recommendations to mitigate the carbon load
15 of, contributions to global warming made by, and effects on the
16 climate caused by commercial air travel to the State.

17 (b) The task force shall comprise:

18 (1) members to be appointed by the governor no later
19 than September 1, 2023; and

20 (2) The following ex officio members or their respective
21 designees:



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- 1 (A) The chief energy officer of the Hawaii state
2 energy office;
- 3 (B) The chief resilience officer and executive
4 director of the office of climate change,
5 sustainability and resiliency of the city and
6 county of Honolulu;
- 7 (C) The director of transportation; and
- 8 (D) The director of business, economic development,
9 and tourism.
- 10 (c) The task force shall submit to the legislature and the
11 governor:
- 12 (1) A preliminary report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
14 no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
15 the regular session of 2024; and
- 16 (2) A comprehensive final report of its findings and
17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
18 no later than thirty days prior to the convening of
19 the regular session of 2025.



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1 (d) The members of the task force shall serve without
2 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
3 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

4 (e) The task force shall be dissolved on June 30, 2025.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY: _____

MAB

JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 959

Report Title:

Department of Health; Air Travel; Carbon Emissions; Task Force; Reports

Description:

Establishes the mitigation of the climate effects of commercial air transportation task force to identify, analyze, and make recommendations to mitigate the carbon load of, contributions to global warming made by, and effects on the climate caused by commercial air travel to the State.

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