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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE ACTION  
TO REDUCE THE CARBON EMISSIONS ARISING FROM AIRPLANE  
TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, because the Hawaiian islands are the most remote  
2 inhabited archipelago from any continental land mass, air  
3 transportation is the only means of rapid travel to and from the  
4 islands; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, a 2019 Honolulu Civil Beat article written by  
7 Stewart Yerton states that airplane flights between the State  
8 and the western continental United States produced 2.3 million  
9 tons of carbon in 2017, while all global flights to or from the  
10 State totaled 6.3 million tons of carbon during the same year;  
11 and

12  
13 WHEREAS, a presentation at the Hawai'i Tourism Futures  
14 Colloquium by University of Hawai'i researcher Andrei Shkvorov  
15 added water vapor, particulates, and nitrogen oxides to the  
16 totals provided in Yerton's article and determined that the  
17 annual carbon contribution of visitors entering and leaving the  
18 State is 24.6 million tons yearly; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has  
21 calculated that each individual must remain within a yearly  
22 "carbon budget" of 2.7 tons in order to keep human-made global  
23 warming below 1.75 degrees Celsius and reach zero net emissions  
24 by 2050; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, a 2020 paper written by Tawn Keeney, MD, in the  
27 Climate Emergency Digest found that the average round trip  
28 flight to and from the State creates 1.8 tons of carbon



1 emissions, which is two thirds of a person's 2.7-ton annual  
2 carbon budget; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, multiple possibilities exist to address carbon  
5 emissions caused by air travel to and from the State, which  
6 include but are not limited to offsetting the carbon  
7 contributions from visitors, adjusting the number of visitors  
8 coming to the State, and requiring airlines operating in the  
9 State to use technology which has a lower carbon output; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, some governmental action to curb emissions from  
12 airplane travel requires legislative action, while other  
13 governmental action to curb emissions can be taken by  
14 departments and agencies without the need for legislative  
15 action; now, therefore,

16  
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
19 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
20 Health, Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and  
21 Natural Resources are urged to take action to reduce the carbon  
22 emissions arising from airplane transportation to and from the  
23 State; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
26 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
27 Resources are urged to develop legislative proposals, whether in  
28 coordination or independently, and submit their proposals to the  
29 Legislature and Governor, no later than forty days prior to the  
30 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

31  
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
33 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
34 Resources are requested to consult the most current published  
35 scientific research when taking action to reduce emissions and  
36 when developing their legislative proposals; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
40 Director of Transportation, and Chairperson of the Board of Land  
41 and Natural Resources.

