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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE ANY  
ACTION POSSIBLE 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, to and  
3 from which air transportation is the only means of rapid travel  
4 to and from the islands; and

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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

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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

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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

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



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

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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

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

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

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
26 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
27 Resources are requested to convene a task force to research  
28 sustainable aviation fuel and other decarbonization measures for  
29 domestic and international travel that can be turned into actual  
30 recommendations for the departments and Legislature; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
33 consist of the following members:

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35 (1) The Director of Transportation, to serve as co-chair;

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37 (2) The Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy  
38 Office, to serve as co-chair;

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40 (3) A representative from the Department of Health;

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- 1 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Climate Change
- 2 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and
- 3
- 4 (5) Any members deemed necessary and invited by the co-
- 5 chairs; and
- 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
8 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
9 Resources are urged to develop legislative proposals, whether in  
10 coordination with each other or independently, and submit their  
11 proposals to the Legislature and Governor no later than forty  
12 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
15 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
16 Resources are requested to consult the most current published  
17 scientific research when taking action to reduce emissions and  
18 when developing their legislative proposals; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,  
22 Director of Transportation, Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
23 Natural Resources, Chief Energy Officer, and Director of the  
24 Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

