
HOUSE 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

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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 found that the average round trip
28 flight to and from the State creates 1.8 tons of carbon
29 emissions, which is two thirds of a person's 2.7-ton annual
30 carbon budget; and

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1 WHEREAS, multiple possibilities exist to address carbon
2 emissions caused by air travel to and from the State, which
3 include but are not limited to offsetting the carbon
4 contributions from visitors, adjusting the number of visitors
5 coming to the State, and requiring airlines operating in the
6 State to use technology which has a lower carbon output; and
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8 WHEREAS, some governmental action to curb emissions from
9 airplane travel requires legislative action, while other
10 governmental action to curb emissions can be taken by
11 departments and agencies without the need for legislative
12 action; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
16 Session of 2024, that the Department of Health, Department of
17 Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural Resources are
18 urged to take action to reduce the carbon emissions arising from
19 airplane transportation to and from the State; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
22 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural
23 Resources are urged to develop legislative proposals, whether in
24 coordination or independently, and submit their proposals to the
25 Legislature and Governor, no later than forty days prior to the
26 convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
29 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural
30 Resources are requested to consult the most current published
31 scientific research when taking action to reduce emissions and
32 when developing their legislative proposals; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
36 Transportation, and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
37 Resources.

