
SENATE 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, the Hawaiian islands are the most remote inhabited
2 archipelago from any continental land mass, to and from which
3 air transportation is the only means of rapid travel; and
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5 WHEREAS, a Honolulu Civil Beat article written by Stewart
6 Yerton and published on August 27, 2019, states that airplane
7 flights between the State and the western continental United
8 States produced 2.3 million tons of carbon in 2017, while all
9 global flights to or from the State totaled 6.3 million tons of
10 carbon during the same year; and
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12 WHEREAS, a presentation at the Hawai'i Tourism Futures
13 Colloquium by University of Hawai'i researcher Andrei Shkvorov
14 added water vapor, particulates, and nitrogen oxides to Yerton's
15 analysis and thus determined that the annual carbon contribution
16 of visitors entering and leaving the State is 24.6 million tons
17 yearly; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has
20 calculated that each individual must remain within a yearly
21 "carbon budget" of 2.7 tons, in order to keep human-made global
22 warming below 1.75 degrees Celsius and reach zero net emissions
23 by 2050; and
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25 WHEREAS, a paper written by Tawn Keeney, MD, and published
26 in October 2020 in the Climate Emergency Digest, an online
27 journal, found that the average round-trip flight to the State
28 creates 1.8 tons of carbon emissions, which is two thirds of a
29 person's 2.7-ton annual carbon budget; and
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31 WHEREAS, multiple possibilities exist to address carbon
32 emissions caused by air travel to and from the State, which



1 include but are not limited to offsetting the carbon
2 contributions from visitors, adjusting the number of visitors
3 coming to the State, and requiring airlines operating in the
4 State to use technology which has a lower carbon output; and
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6 WHEREAS, some governmental action to curb emissions from
7 airplane travel requires legislative instruction, while other
8 governmental action to curb such emissions can be taken by
9 departments and agencies without the need for legislative
10 instruction; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
14 that the Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and
15 Department of Land and Natural Resources are urged to take any
16 action possible to reduce the carbon emissions arising from
17 airplane transportation to and from the State; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
20 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural
21 Resources are requested to convene a task force to research
22 sustainable aviation fuel and other decarbonization measures for
23 domestic and international travel that can be turned into actual
24 recommendations for the departments and legislature; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
27 consist of the following members:
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- 29 (1) The Director of Transportation, to serve as co-chair;
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- 31 (2) The Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy
32 Office, to serve as co-chair;
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- 34 (3) A representative from the Department of Health;
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- 36 (4) A representative from the Hawaii Climate Change
37 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and
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- 39 (5) Any members deemed necessary and invited by the co-
40 chairs; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
2 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural
3 Resources are urged to develop a set of legislative proposals,
4 whether in coordination with each other or independently, and
5 submit this set of proposals to the Legislature and Governor,
6 forty days or more prior to the beginning of the Regular Session
7 of 2025; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
10 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural
11 Resources are requested to consult scientific research which has
12 already been published when taking action to reduce emissions
13 and when developing their set of legislative proposals; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of
17 Transportation, and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
18 Resources.

