

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that lack of awareness
2 and insufficient enforcement of the State's environmental laws
3 are causing substantial ecological harm in the State. Visitors
4 to the State are often unaware of local laws and regulations
5 protecting the environment. The legislature further finds that
6 the agencies and departments tasked with enforcing these laws
7 frequently lack the resources to educate the public and penalize
8 violators. The legislature therefore recognizes the need for a
9 method of informing the public of their obligations to reduce
10 environmental harm without overburdening state agencies.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require visitors
12 to the State's airports to view an educational video on local
13 environmental protection laws before accessing state-funded
14 Wi-Fi services.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:



1 "§261- Airport Wi-Fi; access; mandatory visitor

2 educational video; environmental protection. (a) The

3 department shall require each person arriving in the State at an

4 airport with a state-funded Wi-Fi service provided for public

5 use to view a one-minute educational video on the environmental

6 protection laws and regulations of the State and municipalities

7 before the person is granted access to the Wi-Fi service. The

8 Wi-Fi service's login webpage shall include a language selection

9 option requiring each person to select a preferred language for

10 viewing the educational video developed pursuant to subsection

11 (b). The educational video shall play automatically on the Wi-

12 Fi service's login webpage after the person selects a language

13 and shall be viewed by the person in its entirety before access

14 to the Wi-Fi service is granted.

15 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Hawaii

16 tourism authority under initiatives administered pursuant to

17 section 201B-7(b)(7) to develop the educational video required

18 in subsection (a); provided that:

19 (1) The contents of the educational video shall include

20 but not be limited to:





- 1 (1) Creating a vision and developing a long-range
2 strategic plan for tourism in Hawaii;
- 3 (2) Developing destination management action plans for
4 each county;
- 5 (3) Promoting, marketing, and developing the tourism
6 industry in the State;
- 7 (4) Arranging for the conduct of research through
8 contractual services with the University of Hawaii or
9 any agency or other qualified persons concerning
10 social, economic, and environmental aspects of tourism
11 development in the State;
- 12 (5) Providing technical or other assistance to agencies
13 and private industry upon request; ~~[and]~~
- 14 (6) Reviewing annually the expenditure of public funds by
15 any visitor industry organization that contracts with
16 the authority to perform tourism promotion, marketing,
17 and development and making recommendations necessary
18 to ensure the effective use of the funds for the
19 development of tourism~~[–]~~; and
- 20 (7) Implementing and administering tourism-related
21 initiatives, in collaboration with other public



1 agencies, that are designed to educate visitors on the
2 environmental protection laws and regulations of the
3 State and counties."

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
7 the development and dissemination of the visitor educational
8 video required pursuant to this Act.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
14 the development of the visitor educational video required
15 pursuant to this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
17 tourism authority for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: SES CS



S.B. NO. 2235

Report Title:

DOT; HTA; Airport Wi-Fi; Visitors; Educational Video; Environmental Protection; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Transportation to require each person arriving in the State at an airport with a state-funded Wi-Fi service to view a one-minute educational video on the environmental protection laws and regulations of the State and counties before the person is granted access to the Wi-Fi service. Requires the Department to collaborate with the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop the educational video. Expands the responsibilities of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to include the implementation and administration of tourism-related initiatives, in collaboration with other public agencies, that are designed to educate visitors on the environmental protection laws and regulations of the State and counties. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

