

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CARBON OFFSETS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that climate change is  
2 the most pressing issue of our time. There are many  
3 contributors to climate change, and transportation-generated  
4 greenhouse gas emissions are a significant source. The  
5 legislature acknowledges that air travel faces particularly  
6 difficult technical challenges in reducing greenhouse gas  
7 emissions. Since air travel is essential to tourism, the  
8 legislature notes that air travel and its associated emissions  
9 will remain key elements of the State's intertwined economy and  
10 climate for the foreseeable future.

11 In the past few years, the United Nations has established  
12 an extensive framework for the provision of carbon offsets for  
13 greenhouse gas emissions resulting from international air  
14 travel, known as the carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for  
15 international aviation (CORSIA). However, the Federal Aviation  
16 Administration's CORSIA program does not apply to air travel to  
17 the State from the continental United States.



1       For essential activities including air travel, which remain  
2       intractably resistant to the latest technological solutions to  
3       greenhouse gas emission reductions, the legislature further  
4       finds that the use of carbon offsets to compensate for those  
5       emissions is a strategic necessity for achieving the zero  
6       emissions clean economy target set for the State by Act 15,  
7       Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

8       The legislature anticipates that many air travelers will  
9       take advantage of a program where they may voluntarily purchase  
10       carbon offsets from providers of the offsets, given the  
11       increasing awareness by air travelers of the climate change  
12       implications of their travel. The legislature additionally  
13       finds that the ease of purchasing offsets may have the effect of  
14       enhancing the desirability of travel to the State.

15       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
16       department of transportation to facilitate the voluntary  
17       purchase of verified carbon offsets by any person traveling by  
18       air to or from an airport in the State to compensate for  
19       greenhouse gas emissions from air travel.



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

4 **"S261- Air travel carbon offset purchase.** (a) Pursuant  
5 to its authority under section 261-4, the department shall  
6 facilitate the voluntary purchase of verified carbon offsets by  
7 any person engaging in qualified air travel to or from an  
8 airport in the State. To effectuate this purpose, the  
9 department:

10 (1) Shall accept a request from any person who will be  
11 engaging in, or has recently engaged in, qualified air  
12 travel to or from an airport in the State for  
13 assistance in voluntarily purchasing a verified carbon  
14 offset for the greenhouse gas emissions associated  
15 with the person's qualified air travel;  
16 (2) Shall use reasonable efforts to facilitate the  
17 requestor's connection with a provider of verified  
18 carbon offsets for greenhouse gas emissions from air  
19 travel from whom the requestor may purchase a carbon  
20 offset for the requestor's trip;



1       (3) Shall place information on the department's website  
2       describing the process established by the department  
3       to assist air travelers with purchasing verified  
4       carbon offsets for their air travel from providers of  
5       the offsets, including an interactive capability by  
6       which an air traveler may arrange for the online  
7       purchase of a verified carbon offset;

8       (4) Shall encourage airlines using any airport in the  
9       State to provide links on every airline's respective  
10       website to the department's webpage concerning carbon  
11       offsets for air travel;

12       (5) Shall maintain a list of public and private entities  
13       that provide verified carbon offsets for passenger air  
14       travel; and

15       (6) May contract with other entities to conduct one or  
16       more of the duties described in paragraphs (1) through  
17       (5).

18       (b) As used in this section:

19       "Carbon offset" means the reduction or removal of a  
20       greenhouse gas emission into the atmosphere, or the prevention  
21       of future greenhouse gas emissions, that is achieved by or on



1 behalf of a person to equivalently compensate for greenhouse gas  
2 emissions resulting from air travel by the person to or from an  
3 airport in the State.

4       "Qualified air travel" means any air travel regulated under  
5 this chapter that occurs between an airport in the State and any  
6 other airport in the State, another state, or United States  
7 territory.

8       "Verified" means, with respect to a carbon offset, the  
9 carbon offset has been validated by an independent third party  
10 as real, permanent, and unlikely to occur in the absence of an  
11 offset program."

12       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhabd



S.B. NO. 2316

**Report Title:**

DOT; Air Travel; Verified Carbon Offsets; Qualified Air Travel

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Transportation to assist and enable a person to voluntarily purchase a verified carbon offset for greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the person's air travel to or from an airport in the State.

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

