



**LATE**

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**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Senator Kaiali'i Kahale, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Friday, February 8, 2019, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 414

**SB435** – Relating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**TESTIMONY**

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Gabbard, Kahele, and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Ruderman, Keith-Agaran, and Taniguchi, committee members:

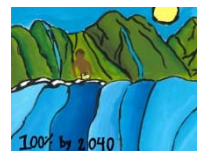
**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB435** that would instruct the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to assess the effects of tourism on climate change, publish a report on its findings, and appropriate funds to accomplish this.

The question of how many visitors to Hawaii are too many is a touchy subject, given that tourism is the biggest non-defense industry in the state's economy. However, the question is being asked more frequently, in terms of tourism's effect on housing, development, congestion, and natural resources.

The addition of climate change to this list is sorely needed, given that about one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii comes from aviation and marine transportation, much of which is driven by visitors. While the bill acknowledges that there is little the state can do to limit national and international flights and marine travel, Hawaii does have the ability to influence travel to and from the state through laws and regulations that influence the tourism industry. Recognizing that ever-increasing numbers of visitors exacerbate climate change, this bill asserts that it's time for the legislature to step in and regulate tourism by including its effects into existing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

No one wants to maim the goose that's been laying what as been a golden egg for Hawaii in many areas for many years, we're in a whole new world now, and what's been accepted practice no longer applies.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

February 8, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

Room 414

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 435**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Kahele, and Wakai, members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports** SB 435, which directs the climate change mitigation and adaptation commission to develop reports assessing the impact of the tourism industry on climate change. Such analyses will help inform actions that the tourism sector can take to reduce their contribution to climate change and help support the increasing brand image of Hawaii as a clean destination. We support amending this measure to include an appropriation of \$500,000 or more for this purpose.

Tourism is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. According to a recent study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, **tourism accounts for around 8 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.**<sup>1</sup> The study—which involved the estimation of the climate impact of one billion supply chains—found that transport, shopping, and food are significant contributors. The majority of the carbon emissions are emitted by (and in) high-income countries, with the United States topping the rankings.

The approximately 10 million visitors that arrive in Hawaii annually have a disproportionately large carbon footprint per person when compared with residents. A 2010 paper by the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii (UHERO) found that **visitors contribute an estimated four times more carbon than residents** on a per person per annum basis.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, further analysis of the visitor industry's carbon intensity warrants deeper study if we hope to achieve the states critical clean energy and carbon neutrality goals.

The carbon emissions from visitor air travel alone are daunting. Each passenger contributes an average of one metric ton of carbon dioxide for *each* flight from a continent to Hawaii. Visitors arrive in Hawaii with an already large—and largely unavoidable—carbon footprint, meaning that efforts to reduce further emissions during their visit are even more critical.

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<sup>1</sup> Lenzen, M., et. al. (2018). The carbon footprint of global tourism. *Nature Climate Change*, 8, 522–528.

<sup>2</sup> Konan, D. E., & Chan L. C. (2010). Greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i: Household and visitor expenditure analysis. *Energy Economics*, 32(1), 210-291.

Finally, the tourism sector bears a heightened responsibility to reduce carbon emissions given the severe impacts of climate change on the industry. Much of Hawaii's visitor infrastructure (resorts, visitor destinations, popular experiences) will be directly affected by climate change—particularly through sea level rise. The sector therefore has a clear obligation to mitigate emissions as much as possible.

Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 435 to bring a better understanding to the climate impacts of the tourism sector. **We believe this measure will help the industry make necessary changes to reduce their emissions while staying true to Hawaii's clean destination image.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

**LATE**

### COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 8, 2019

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414, State Capitol

RE: SB 435 Relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Russell Ruderman, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, the Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran; and Members of the Committee on Water and Land; to the Honorable Glenn Wakai; the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 435 relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions.**

SB 435 provides that the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation Commission shall, as part of its general functions, duties, and powers, develop reports assessing the impact of the tourism industry on climate change; provided that when it is reasonable and cost-effective to do so, the commission shall analyze and categorize the data collected to determine the contribution, if any, that the tourism industry has on greenhouse gas emissions. The reports shall

be made publicly available no later than December 31, 2021, and the commission shall reevaluate and update the report by July 1, 2023.

DPH is committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. DPH will seek to cut energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy bills. DPH will transform Hawai'i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. DPH will make new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas. DPH believes that the tax code must reflect our commitment to a clean energy future by preserving and extending tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean energy.

Democrats believe that carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases should be priced to reflect their negative externalities, and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and help meet our climate goals. Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes and appliance standards. DPH is also committed to expanding clean energy research and development.

DPH will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. DPH will streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 18, ln. 14-34.*

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

DPH believes that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. DPH is committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. Hawai'i will not only meet the goals set in Paris, DPH will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. DPH will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and

invest in climate resilience and adaptation. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 19, ln. 2-16.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, that climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe; and wherein, Hawai`i could lead in forging a robust global solution to this climate crisis, OCCLP supports SB 435 and urges its passage out of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment; Water and Land; and Energy, Economic Development and Tourism.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

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