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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:00 PM

in consideration of
HB 327 HD 1
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 327 HD 1 and respectfully offers the following **comments and proposed amendments**. The purpose of HB 327 HD 1 is to convene a Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office to develop a state action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of international air transportation from Hawai'i.

The Office of Planning recently published in December 2019 the [*Feasibility and Implications of Establishing a Carbon Offset Program for the State of Hawai'i*](#). The publication was provided to the Hawai'i State Legislature and is also available online at the Office of Planning's website.

As explained on page 51 of the feasibility analysis, it is unlikely that the State of Hawai'i would generate significant revenue through the production of offsets, and any trading of offset credits produced within Hawai'i would be limited by the state's Zero Emissions Clean Economy target. Through this publication, the Office of Planning recommended the adoption of alternative fuels in transportation to reduce Hawai'i's greenhouse gas emissions to meet Hawai'i's Zero Emissions Clean Economy target by 2045.

Additionally, the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, which is administratively attached to the Office of Planning has a reporting requirement due by December 2022 to include a significant analysis on greenhouse gas reduction and sequestration opportunities. The Office of Planning recommends the proposed "Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force" coordinate with the Office of Planning's Statewide Sustainability Branch and the State's Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.

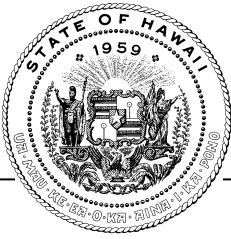
The Office of Planning notes that the U.N. has declared this 2020-2030 decade as the "Decade of Action" to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with the goals of the U.N. Paris Agreement. These international initiatives have significantly impacted markets and corporations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including [Boeing's recent commitment to transition its commercial aircraft to be ready to fly on 100% sustainable aviation fuels by 2030.](#)

The Office of Planning recommends the following amendments for the committee's consideration:

- p.3, Line 3-4: Revise to: "Achieve a Zero Emissions Clean Economy by the year 2045"
- p.3, Lines 14-15: Delete "in addition to carbon offsets"
- p.4, Line 16: Delete "carbon offsets"
- p. 8-9: Add "Statewide Sustainability Branch" as a member to serve on the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force
- p.11, Line 17: Delete "and carbon offset projects"

The Office of Planning *thanks* the Legislature for recently passing [Act 45, SLH 2020](#) to formally establish the State's Sustainability Program, and expand the Office of Planning's role to include statewide climate adaptation and sea level rise adaptation planning and coordination.

The Office of Planning is actively working on the sustainable development and climate adaptation of the state to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations of Hawai'i to meet their own needs.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Comments in consideration of
HB 327 HD1
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 327, HD1, which would establish a sustainable aviation fuel task force in the Hawai'i State Energy Office. HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to help achieve a decarbonized economy.

While HSEO appreciates the intent of the bill, the envisioned twenty-member task force would take on an ambitious, wide-ranging, and complex array of tasks in a relatively short time period with at least two public meetings per year, an interim report to the Legislature at the end of 2021, and a final report to the Legislature at the end of 2022, ceasing to exist at the end of June, 2023.

Aviation fuel is a very important area for innovation, and Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to develop solutions and to continue to be a leader in this area, building upon the success of the federal initiative, headquartered in Hawaii, known as the Green Initiative For Fuels Transition – Pacific (GIFTPAC) from 2009-2019, and the 2019 Hawai'i Aviation and Climate Action Summit, which convened national and international leaders in the field of sustainable aviation fuels here. Also, greenhouse gas emissions

from air travel are a particularly significant area to address, since jet fuel has historically been one of the largest sources of Hawai'i's greenhouse gas emissions.

However, the scope and scale of the effort envisioned would not be possible for HSEO to accomplish unless significant funding and staffing could be found and a longer timeframe made available to accomplish this very important work.

Nevertheless, we look forward to identifying partnerships or pursuing grant funding opportunities if available, and to supporting successful developments in this emerging area.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:36:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Climate Protectors Hawaii	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,

The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Climate Protectors Coalition

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 2:00 pm

Position: In support of HB327 HD1 RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee members: The Climate Protectors Coalition supports HB327. The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

This bill would convene a Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force within the State Energy Office to develop a state action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by international air transportation from Hawaii. The Climate Protectors ask that you pass this bill. Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



HB 327, HD 1, RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 · HOUSE CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE ·
CHAIR REP. AARON LING JOHANSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 327, HD 1, relating to greenhouse gas emissions, which convenes a Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force within the Hawaii State Energy Office to develop a state action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of international air transportation from Hawai'i.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding.

Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, climate change

will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking. While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, including by working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from air transportation related to our tourist industry. **In 2019, Civil Beat reported that flights to and from Hawai'i from all over the world produced approximately 6.3 million tons of carbon, which is the equivalent of the CO2 produced by generating electricity for almost 1.1 million homes in a year.** For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:50:45 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	350Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

350Hawaii **supports** this bill that would convene a Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force within the Hawaii State Energy Office to develop a state action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of international air transportation from Hawaii.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:14:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Maluafiti	Biotechnology Innovation Organization	Support	No

Comments:

The nation's transportation sector leads all others in greenhouse gas emissions. As we look to decarbonize travel—including both road transport and aviation—sustainable fuels are increasingly important because we can't rely on electrification alone. Through biotechnology, our companies are going beyond ethanol and developing low carbon fuels from sustainable sources to keep us moving, including those made from novel feedstocks like industrial waste gases and algae.

BIO is in strong support of this initiative.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:41:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:53:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob B Shearer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please take this opportunity to give the state one more tool in meeting our carbon emission goals. Every action taken today is a step toward a brighter future for upcoming generations.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:30:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I don't really know how this can be done but we should try! Thank you for starting the dialog.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:30:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident, registered voter, and homeowner in Kailua. I believe HB327 HD1 and the task force it creates will be important to understand the current state of the air pollution caused by airplanes and what we can do to reduce the effects of that. Hawaii is very behind in its fight against climate change and we are one of the states at greatest risk. We can't blindly attack this problem, we need to be smart about where and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need more bills like this so we can fight climate change responsibly.

HB-327-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:24:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alana Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support legislation that works towards accountability and the green transformation of our Transportation sector. Airlines are a HUGE source of emissions and creating a task force designed to find sustainable solutions to these issues is of utmost importance for a healthy and thriving Hawai'i in the future.

Thank you to all who testify in support of this measure.

~Alana Reis, Kailua Resident