

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Friday, February 12, 2021  
3:30 PM

in consideration of  
**SB 987**  
**RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

Chairs Lee and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Misalucha, and Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of SB 987 and offers the following comments and amendments. The purpose of SB 897 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.

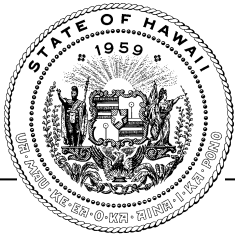
The Office of Planning notes that the U.N. has declared this 2020-2030 decade as the "Decade of Action" to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with the goals of the U.N. Paris Agreement. These international initiatives have significantly impacted markets and corporations to reduce 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  
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Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON**

**TRANSPORTATION  
AND  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Friday, February 12, 2021  
3:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Comments in consideration of  
**SB 987**  
**RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

Chairs Lee and Wakai, Vice Chairs Inouye and Misalucha, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 987, 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 fully supports 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.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

**OFFICERS**

John Bickel, President  
Alan Burdick, Vice President  
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer  
Doug Pyle, Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Melodie Aduja  
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**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 23404  
Honolulu  
Hawaii 96823

February 9, 2021

TO: Chairs Lee & Wakai and members of TRS/EET Committees

RE: SB 987 Relating to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Support for hearing on Feb. 12

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 987 as it 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.

Carbon-emissions are causing climate change. We are pleased President Biden has restored the United States into the Paris Agreement within the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Yet Hawaii must do its part. This bill is a part of us doing our part.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Bickel, President





## SB 987, RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

FEBRUARY 12, 2021 · SENATE TRANSPORTATION  
AND ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM COMMITTEES · CHAIRS SEN. CHRIS LEE  
AND SEN. GLENN WAKAI

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports SB 987, 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 Hawaii.

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](mailto:kris@imuaalliance.org)**

**SB-987**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:19:55 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/12/2021 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Pollack	Testifying for 350Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

350Hawaii supports the intent of 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.

350Hawaii requests the committee consider deleting references in this bill regarding carbon offsets. While carbon offset schemes claim to compensate for emissions with no cost to the climate – they don't actually do that, studies show they are simply an accounting trick.

Last, we encourage that the make-up of the task force include more community representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-987**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:39:59 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/12/2021 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A good suggestion. Please support.

**SB-987**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:42:17 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/12/2021 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB987.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn