

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO TAKE ACTION  
TO REDUCE THE CARBON EMISSIONS ARISING FROM AIRPLANE  
TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian islands are the most remote inhabited  
2 archipelago from any continental land mass, to and from which  
3 air transportation is the only means of rapid travel; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, a Honolulu Civil Beat article written by Stewart  
6 Yerton and published on August 27, 2019, states that airplane  
7 flights between the State and the western continental United  
8 States produced 2.3 million tons of carbon in 2017, while all  
9 global flights to or from the State totaled 6.3 million tons of  
10 carbon during the same year; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, a presentation at the Hawai'i Tourism Futures  
13 Colloquium by University of Hawai'i researcher Andrei Shkvorov  
14 added water vapor, particulates, and nitrogen oxides to Yerton's  
15 analysis and thus determined that the annual carbon contribution  
16 of visitors entering and leaving the State is 24.6 million tons  
17 yearly; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has  
20 calculated that each individual must remain within a yearly  
21 "carbon budget" of 2.7 tons, in order to keep human-made global  
22 warming below 1.75 degrees Celsius and reach zero net emissions  
23 by 2050; and  
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25 WHEREAS, a paper written by Tawn Keeney, MD, and published  
26 in October 2020 in the Climate Emergency Digest, an online  
27 journal, found that the average round-trip flight to the State  
28 creates 1.8 tons of carbon emissions, which is two thirds of a  
29 person's 2.7-ton annual carbon budget; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, multiple possibilities exist to address carbon  
32 emissions caused by air travel to and from the State, which  
33 include but are not limited to offsetting the carbon  
34 contributions from visitors, adjusting the number of visitors



1 coming to the State, and requiring airlines operating in the  
2 State to use technology which has a lower carbon output; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, some governmental action to curb emissions from  
5 airplane travel requires legislative instruction, while other  
6 governmental action to curb such emissions can be taken by  
7 departments and agencies without the need for legislative  
8 instruction; now, therefore,

9  
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
12 that the Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and  
13 Department of Land and Natural Resources are urged to take  
14 action to reduce the carbon emissions arising from airplane  
15 transportation to and from the State; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
18 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
19 Resources are urged to develop a set of legislative proposals,  
20 whether in coordination with each other or independently, and  
21 submit this set of proposals to the Legislature and Governor,  
22 forty days or more prior to the beginning of the Regular Session  
23 of 2025; and

24  
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
26 Department of Transportation, and Department of Land and Natural  
27 Resources are requested to consult scientific research which has  
28 already been published when taking action to reduce emissions  
29 and when developing their set of legislative proposals; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Director of  
33 Transportation, and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
34 Resources.

35  
36 *Karl Rhoad*  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

