

JAN 15 2025

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, within the transportation sector,
6 the air transportation component faces particularly difficult
7 technical challenges in reducing carbon dioxide emissions
8 associated with air travel. Since air travel is essential to
9 tourism, the legislature notes that air travel and its
10 associated carbon emissions will remain key elements of Hawai'i's
11 intertwined economy and climate for the foreseeable future.

12 In the past few years, the United Nations has established
13 an extensive framework for the provision of carbon offsets for
14 carbon emissions resulting from international air travel, known
15 as the carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international
16 aviation (CORSA). However, the Federal Aviation



1 Administration's CORSIA program does not apply to air travel to
2 Hawai'i from the continental United States.

3 The legislature further finds that, for essential
4 activities including air travel, which are intractably
5 resistant, at least in the near term, to technological solutions
6 to carbon emission reductions, the use of carbon offsets to
7 compensate for those emissions is a strategic necessity for
8 achieving the zero-emission clean economy target set for the
9 State by Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

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

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
18 department of transportation to facilitate the voluntary
19 purchase of verified carbon offsets by persons traveling by air
20 to or from airports in Hawai'i to compensate for carbon dioxide
21 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 "§261- 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 persons engaging in qualified air travel to or from an airport
8 in the State. To effectuate this purpose, the department:

9 (1) Shall accept requests from each person who will be
10 engaging in, or has recently engaged in, qualified air
11 travel to or from an airport in the State for
12 assistance in voluntarily purchasing a verified carbon
13 offset for the carbon dioxide emissions associated
14 with the person's qualified air travel;

15 (2) Shall use reasonable best efforts to facilitate the
16 requestor's connection with a provider of verified
17 carbon offsets for carbon dioxide emissions from air
18 travel from whom the requestor may purchase a carbon
19 offset for the requestor's trip;

20 (3) Shall place information on the department's website
21 describing the process established by the department



1 to assist air travelers with purchasing verified
2 carbon offsets for their air travel from providers of
3 the offsets, including interactive capability by which
4 air travelers may arrange for the online purchase of
5 verified carbon offsets;

6 (4) Shall encourage airlines using airports in the State
7 to provide links on the airlines' respective websites
8 to the department's webpage concerning carbon offsets
9 for air travel;

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

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

16 (b) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Carbon offset" means a reduction in carbon dioxide or
18 other greenhouse gases in, or emitted into, the atmosphere that
19 is achieved by or on behalf of a person to compensate, in a
20 carbon dioxide-equivalent amount, for the emissions of carbon
21 dioxide resulting from air travel by the person to or from an



1 airport in the State. "Carbon offset" includes an action that
2 removes greenhouse gases from the atmosphere or that reduces
3 future greenhouse gas emissions.

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, a
9 reduction in carbon dioxide, or carbon dioxide-equivalent amount
10 of other greenhouse gases, that is determined through a process
11 of validation and verification by an independent third party to
12 be real, permanent, and unlikely to occur in the absence of an
13 offset program."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

16

INTRODUCED BY: Kal Rhoads



S.B. NO. 52

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 carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the person's air travel to or from an airport in the State.

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