
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 STATE EMPLOYEE AIR TRAVEL CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM

6 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

7 "Agency" means an internal division of a branch of state
8 government, such as a department, division, branch, agency,
9 program, or office, and includes the judiciary and the office of
10 Hawaiian affairs.

11 "Canoe plants" means plant species originally brought to
12 Hawaii by ancient Polynesian peoples and shall be considered
13 native to Hawaii for the purposes of this chapter.

14 "Carbon offset" means a reduction in carbon dioxide or
15 other greenhouse gases in, or emitted into, the atmosphere that
16 is achieved by, or on behalf of, a person or entity to
17 compensate for emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from



1 another activity undertaken by such person or entity. A carbon
2 offset may be accomplished by an action that reduces future
3 greenhouse gas emissions or that removes greenhouse gases from
4 the atmosphere.

5 "Departments" mean the department of land and natural
6 resources and department of budget and finance.

7 "Employee" means an employee of the State including all
8 permanent employees of the executive, judicial, and legislative
9 branches. The term also includes legislative session staff.

10 "Greenhouse gas" means any of the following gases: carbon
11 dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous (N₂O), sulfur hexaflouride
12 (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

13 **§ -2 State employee air travel carbon offset program.**

14 (a) The governor, president of the senate, speaker of the house
15 of representatives, chief justice, and chairperson of the office
16 of Hawaiian affairs shall establish a policy for their
17 respective branches of state government that requires all
18 agencies to participate in a carbon offset program established
19 and administered by the departments to offset carbon emissions
20 caused by air travel undertaken by an employee of an agency in
21 performance of the employee's official duties. The fee for an



1 offset required for an employee trip, as determined by the
2 departments under subsection (b), shall be paid to the
3 departments by the agency whose employee made the trip.

4 (b) The carbon offset program to be established and
5 administered by the departments pursuant to subsection (a) shall
6 include:

7 (1) A procedure for determining the amount of carbon
8 dioxide emissions in metric tons that result from air
9 travel by a single airline passenger, based on the
10 average fuel consumption and corresponding carbon
11 dioxide emission per hours traveled;

12 (2) Carbon dioxide-reducing projects to be implemented by
13 or on behalf of the departments to create offsets
14 required under this section, which may include, but
15 not be limited to, projects for the reforestation of
16 degraded areas of Hawaii by planting trees native to
17 Hawaii such as koa varieties, sandalwood varieties
18 including Iliahi, Laauala, Wahieala, Aoa, Aahi, and
19 canoe plants;

20 (3) A methodology to determine the:



- 1 (A) Amount in metric tons of carbon dioxide, or the
- 2 carbon dioxide equivalent of other greenhouse
- 3 gases, to be eliminated from future emissions or
- 4 to be absorbed from the atmosphere by offset
- 5 program projects; and
- 6 (B) Cost, including materials, labor, and
- 7 administrative costs, per unit metric ton of
- 8 carbon dioxide reduction;
- 9 (4) A procedure, based on the information developed
- 10 through paragraphs (1) and (3), for calculating the
- 11 fee to be assessed to an agency for the amount of
- 12 carbon offset in metric tons that is equivalent to the
- 13 amount of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to a
- 14 specific airline trip by an employee of the agency;
- 15 and
- 16 (5) A record system to track the allocation of carbon
- 17 emission reductions from offset program projects to
- 18 specific offset requests for employee trips and the
- 19 remaining offset capacity of any project for future
- 20 offset requests.



1 (c) Fees received by the departments from state agencies
2 for the carbon offsets to be provided under this section for
3 employee air travel shall be used by the departments to defray
4 the costs of the offset program projects implemented through the
5 carbon offset program.

6 (d) In administering the carbon offset program, the
7 departments may contract with public or private entities to
8 implement offset program projects, such as the planting of
9 trees.

10 (e) The departments may adopt rules, pursuant to
11 chapter 91, to effectuate the purposes of this chapter."

12 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

State Employees; Air Travel; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Budget and Finance; Carbon Offset Program

Description:

Requires state agencies to participate in a carbon offset program to offset carbon emissions caused by their employees' air travel. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Budget and Finance to establish and administer a carbon offset program. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

