

Park-Chun, Coranne

From: icec002@hawaii.rr.com
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To: Climate Change Commission
Subject: Aviation emissions study

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I want to speak in support of an initiative to study the aviation emissions of travelers to and from Hawaii in the visitor trade. A good friend, Dr. Tawn Keeney, M.D. has produced a white paper outlining the issues, a startling discovery that an imagined annual emissions "budget" for each man, woman, and child on the planet is expended in one round trip to the islands. This enormous expenditure has long been totally exogenous to Hawaii economic thinking, a presumed necessity since the rise of the Democratic Party over Republican sugar barons. Even so, tourism has become a mixed blessing at best, the perennial question mark in everyone's contemplation of island priorities.

To be sure, the "budget" and the mixed blessing are complete non-starters with the current arbiters of economic propriety. The tourism industry is the golden calf of polite society, "serious thinkers", and the disparaged local public. With the cascade of crises upon us, however suddenly perceived through the lens of the pandemic, we now face the awkward awareness that virtually everything is based upon unsustainable premises. From military contamination to invasive species to food insecurity and the great sell-off of local real estate to global high-bidders, we must add that our dependence upon dependence has a global price tag we thought we were so smart to avoid. A reckoning is unavoidable, although within the electoral cycle gang, it is nowhere on the horizon, and we will keep spinning the entire planet to avoid getting there.

A small gesture toward the survival of our grandchildren would be to support a study of the aviation emissions. It cannot help but be a burr under the saddle for a few electoral cycles until the grandchildren are forced to deal with it, and a little lead time would be super helpful.

-- me ke aloha pumehana, Charley Ice
Waimalu, 'Aiea, Pu'u'loa, O'ahu

