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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 1992, the  
2       University of Hawaii sea grant college program published the  
3       report, "Oil Spills at Sea: Potential Impacts on Hawaii," which  
4       estimated economic losses of \$6,800,000,000 if a catastrophic  
5       oil spill reached the beaches at Waikiki. This led to the  
6       preparation of the 1996 report, "Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent  
7       and Respond to Oil Spills," hereinafter the "1996 report," which  
8       has been the foundation of Hawaii's emergency spill response  
9       planning and was written in partnership with the department of  
10      health, department of land and natural resources, and department  
11      of transportation.

12      The legislature further finds that the 1996 report has not  
13      been updated, despite the potential dire economic and  
14      environmental consequences of an oil spill in Hawaii as  
15      indicated by the 1992 economic analysis conducted by the  
16      University of Hawaii sea grant college program. In September  
17      2013, Hawaii experienced an example of the potential impacts  
18      from a spill when hundreds of thousands of gallons of molasses



1 were spilled into Honolulu harbor. News of the spill spread  
2 globally, which further highlights the need to prepare a spill  
3 prevention plan. Fortunately, molasses dissolves in water and  
4 will eventually be broken down by bacteria. However, the  
5 immediate impacts to the ecosystem remain, and the impacts from  
6 an oil spill would be more persistent and damaging.

7 Given the potentially catastrophic and statewide  
8 environmental and economic effects of oil spills, the  
9 legislature finds and declares that preventing and responding to  
10 oil spills is a matter of statewide concern and therefore under  
11 the legislature's purview pursuant to article X, section 6, of  
12 the Hawaii State Constitution.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Require the University of Hawaii sea grant college  
15 program to submit a report updating the 1996 report to  
16 the legislature; and  
17 (2) Appropriate funds for staffing and resources to update  
18 the 1996 report.

19 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii sea grant college  
20 program shall prepare a report updating the 1996 "Hawaii's  
21 Readiness to Prevent and Respond to Oil Spills" report.

22 (b) The updated report shall:



- 1 (1) Concentrate on the prevention and mitigation of a  
2 variety of contaminant spills into our environment;  
3 (2) Identify natural hazards and spill risk plans; and  
4 (3) Update critical facilities and hazard maps in the  
5 State.

6 (c) In preparing the report, the University of Hawaii sea  
7 grant college program shall conduct interviews with major  
8 stakeholders, including:

- 9 (1) The department of health;  
10 (2) The department of land and natural resources;  
11 (3) The department of transportation;  
12 (4) The United States Coast Guard;  
13 (5) The United States Environmental Protection Agency; and  
14 (6) Any other organization, company, individual, or expert  
15 that the sea grant college program deems necessary.

16 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii sea grant college  
17 program, in consultation with major stakeholders, shall submit  
18 the updated report to the legislature, including findings,  
19 recommendations, and proposed draft legislation, if necessary,  
20 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
21 session of 2016.



1       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$               or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
4 provide funding for staffing, administrative and technical  
5 support, office equipment and supplies, and travel expenses to  
6 enable the University of Hawaii sea grant college program to  
7 update the 1996 "Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent and Respond to  
8 Oil Spills" report.

9       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
10 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

11       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Oil Spill Prevention; Sea Grant College Program; University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to submit a report updating the 1996 report on oil spills. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources to update the 1996 report. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

