
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE MICROBE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are more than
2 fifteen adopted, designated, and established official symbols of
3 the State of Hawaii, or more than thirty official symbols when
4 designated flowers and colors of the individual islands are also
5 included. From the state motto, "ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka
6 pono," which, translated, means "the life of the land is
7 perpetuated in righteousness," to the state plant, kalo
8 (*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott), these designated symbols are
9 representative of all things unique to the State of Hawaii and
10 its individual islands. Missing from this group of symbols is
11 an official state microbe.

12 In 2012, those who supported the establishment of a state
13 microbe were tasked with finding a new and relevant species that
14 is unique in origin to the State. Scientists and students
15 joined together in research efforts and studies and
16 collaboratively decided upon *Flavobacterium akiainvivens*, which



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1 originates from or lives on *Wikstroemia oahuensis*, whose
2 Hawaiian name is akia, which means an endemic shrub.

3 The bacterium was discovered and named by Iolani School
4 student Iris Kuo in collaboration with Dr. Stuart P. Donachie
5 and Dr. Jimmy Saw of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
6 department of microbiology; Dr. Durrell D. Kapan and Dr. Kenneth
7 Y. Kaneshiro of the university's center for conservation and
8 research training; and Stephanie Christensen of the university's
9 department of oceanography. The bacterium forms two to three
10 millimeter diameter colonies that range from cream to off-white
11 in color and wet to mucoid in viscosity, and was isolated from
12 decaying *Wikstroemia oahuensis* collected on the island of Oahu.

13 The legislature further finds that the designation of
14 *Flavobacterium akiainvivens*, an organism originating in Hawaii,
15 as the state microbe will further emphasize the unique nature of
16 our State.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate
18 *Flavobacterium akiainvivens* as the official microbe of the
19 State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

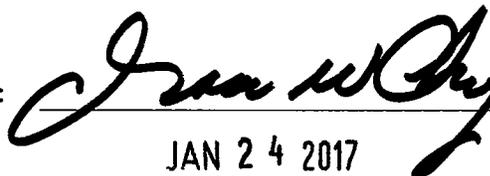
4 "§5- State microbe. The *Flavobacterium akiainvicens*,
5 originating from or living on akia, a native Hawaiian shrub, is
6 established and designated as the official microbe of the
7 State."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

10

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 24 2017



H.B. NO. 1217

Report Title:

State Microbe

Description:

Establishes and designates *Flavobacterium akiainvovens* as the official microbe of the State.

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