

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the health of
2 Hawaii's marine ecosystem is a matter of serious and ongoing
3 concern in the State. In particular, coral in Hawaii's waters
4 have shown increasingly significant signs of damage, including
5 extensive bleaching. The legislature further finds that many
6 factors, such as water temperature, contribute to this damage,
7 but that the damage is exacerbated by the presence of chemicals
8 that are toxic to coral.

9 The legislature additionally finds that recent research has
10 demonstrated that oxybenzone is toxic to coral organisms, causes
11 deformation in the larval form of coral, and contributes to
12 coral bleaching. The legislature also finds that oxybenzone is
13 a chemical blocker that protects skin from ultraviolet
14 radiation. As a result, oxybenzone is commonly found in
15 sunscreens and other similar personal care products. Oxybenzone
16 can be released into the ocean when a swimmer who has applied
17 sunscreen enters the water, or through the waste mist plume of



1 spray-on sunscreen. The legislature further finds that elevated
2 levels of oxybenzone have been detected at popular swimming
3 beaches throughout the State, including Waimea bay and Waikiki
4 beach on Oahu, and Honolua bay on Maui.

5 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the use or
6 application of sunscreen and sunblock containing oxybenzone
7 while in a marine life conservation district.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 190, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
10 and to read as follows:

11 "§190- Oxybenzone; sunscreen and cosmetics
12 restrictions. No person while in a marine life conservation
13 district shall use or apply sunscreen or sunblock containing
14 oxybenzone or any cosmetic with sunscreen containing oxybenzone.

15 For purposes of this section, "oxybenzone" includes
16 benzophenone-3 and 2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl phenylmethanone."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Kal Rhoads INTRODUCED BY: Bill Evers
Rae Rik Hudson J. Maria Will Evers
John



S.B. NO. 692

Donly H. Bab

Breem Hunt

Marine L. Snowye



S.B. NO. 692

Report Title:

Sunscreen; Oxybenzone; Marine Life Conservation District

Description:

Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen or sunblock containing oxybenzone or cosmetics with sunscreen containing oxybenzone while in a marine life conservation district.

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