
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SEWAGE SPILLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pollution from land-
2 based sources is a primary cause of coral reef degradation
3 throughout the world. In particular, research shows that raw
4 human waste contain microbes that are responsible for coral
5 diseases, such as white pox and black band disease, that are
6 capable of devastating large patches of reef. In recent years,
7 Hawaii has experienced numerous wastewater spills that have
8 released raw sewage into the ocean. These have ranged from an
9 estimated ten thousand gallons in 2016, to five hundred thousand
10 gallons in 2015. In 2017, a United States Geological Survey
11 study showed that the discharge from a sewage treatment facility
12 near Kahekili Beach Park in West Maui has both eroded the nearby
13 reef and inhibited new coral growth. The legislature believes
14 that understanding the impacts of wastewater spills is critical
15 to better protecting Hawaii's coral reef ecosystems and human
16 health.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart M, to be
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- Hawaii institute of marine biology; sewage.

5 (a) The Hawaii institute of marine biology shall conduct
6 ongoing studies of the impacts of sewage spills on human health
7 resulting from contact through recreational ocean activities and
8 the environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral
9 reefs. Studies shall include damage evaluations, identification
10 of diseases, and recommendations for mitigating detrimental
11 effects.

12 (b) The Hawaii institute of marine biology shall submit an
13 annual report of its findings pursuant to this section to the
14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 each regular session. The reports may include proposed
16 legislation."

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to conduct
20 ongoing studies of the impact of sewage spills on human health
21 and coral reefs.



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

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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H.B. NO. 2261

Report Title:

Environment; Health; Coral Reefs; Raw Sewage; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii to conduct ongoing studies of the impacts of sewage spills on human health and affected coral reefs. Requires the Institute of Marine Biology to submit an annual report to the Legislature prior to the convening of each regular session. Appropriates funds.

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