
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE VISITORS TO THE STATE ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF OXYBENZONE SUNSCREEN ON CORAL REEFS AND TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO THE STATE TO REFRAIN FROM USING OXYBENZONE SUNSCREENS.

1 WHEREAS, the decline of coral reefs poses a significant
2 ecological threat worldwide; and

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4 WHEREAS, while scientists around the world agree that the
5 primary causes of coral decline are related to global warming,
6 agricultural runoff, sewage, and overfishing, recent studies
7 have shown that that oxybenzone, a common sunscreen ingredient,
8 also has detrimental effects on coral reefs; and

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10 WHEREAS, coral larvae deformity, bleaching, and DNA damage
11 that weaken coral systems' adaptability to climate change have
12 all been attributed to oxybenzone exposure; and

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14 WHEREAS, the harmful effects of oxybenzone are particularly
15 acute in Hawaiian ocean waters where coral bleaching is
16 occurring at a historic rate never before noted in recorded
17 history; and

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19 WHEREAS, there are reasonable alternatives to oxybenzone-
20 based sunscreens, such as zinc oxide and titanium oxide, that
21 allow beach-users to enjoy the outdoors without compromising sun
22 protection; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2018, that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is requested to
27 collaborate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to
28 campaign to educate visitors to the State about the harmful
29 effects of oxybenzone sunscreen on coral reefs and to encourage



1 visitors to the State to refrain from using oxybenzone
2 sunscreens; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority,
5 in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural
6 Resources, is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
8 Session of 2019, on the efforts taken to educate visitors to the
9 State about the harmful effects of oxybenzone sunscreen on coral
10 reefs and to encourage visitors to the State to refrain from
11 using oxybenzone sunscreens; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii Tourism
15 Authority.

