

MAR 06 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE TO COLLABORATE WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO STUDY
THE IMPACT OF OXYBENZONE AND OCTINOXATE ON HUMANS,
PARTICULARLY PREGNANT WOMEN.

1 WHEREAS, oxybenzone and octinoxate have significant impacts
2 on Hawaii's marine environment and ecosystems; and
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4 WHEREAS, a swimmer's use of sunscreen containing these
5 compounds can be released into the ocean when the swimmer enters
6 the water or through the waste mist plume of spray-on sunscreen;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, these compounds act as pseudo-persistent
10 pollutants in Hawaii's coastal waters, meaning that their
11 environmental contamination levels are constantly sustained or
12 elevated by swimmers, beachgoers, and other water users; and
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14 WHEREAS, elevated levels of oxybenzone and octinoxate have
15 been detected at popular swimming beaches and critical coral
16 reef areas throughout the State; and
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18 WHEREAS, reports and studies have reported oxybenzone and
19 octinoxate concentrations inducing feminization in adult male
20 fish and increasing reproductive diseases in marine invertebrate
21 species, such as sea urchins, vertebrate species, such as
22 wrasses, eels, and parrotfish, and mammals, in species similar
23 to the Hawaiian monk seal; and
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25 WHEREAS, these compounds also induce deformities in the
26 embryonic development of fish, sea urchins, coral, and shrimp
27 and induce neurological behavioral changes in fish that threaten
28 the continuity of fish populations; and
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30 WHEREAS, a recent study, co-authored by the Centers for
31 Disease Control and Prevention, indicates that oxybenzone
32 concentrations were significantly higher in older, married, or
33 employed mothers, and individuals with normal body mass index,



1 higher educational attainment, or higher household income, or
2 who are non-Hispanic white; and
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4 WHEREAS, the study further reported that oxybenzone levels
5 were sixty-two percent higher in individuals who consumed
6 seafood at least five times a month; and
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8 WHEREAS, other studies have shown that humans can exhibit
9 developmental pathologies, especially fetal-development diseases
10 associated with prenatal exposure to oxybenzone, and that
11 Hirschsprung's disease has been linked to maternal exposure to
12 oxybenzone by interfering with the migration neural crest cells
13 during embryonic development; and
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15 WHEREAS, marine life, such as fish, compose a significant
16 share of an individual's diet in Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, marine life such as fish, shrimp, and eel are
19 served at restaurants and other eateries and sold at fish
20 markets, grocery stores, and supermarkets in the State; and
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22 WHEREAS, the health effects associated with oxybenzone and
23 octinoxate are a public health concern and priority; now,
24 therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
28 that the Department of Health and John A. Burns School of
29 Medicine are requested to collaborate with county, state, and
30 federal agencies, private and nonprofit organizations, and other
31 stakeholders to study the impact of oxybenzone and octinoxate on
32 humans, particularly pregnant women; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
35 John A. Burns School of Medicine are requested to complete a
36 report of their findings and recommendations, including any
37 proposed legislation, by December 1, 2019, and submit the report
38 to the Legislature by January 5, 2020; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and Dean of
3 the John A. Burns School of Medicine.
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OFFERED BY:

Will Zyew

