
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORAL.

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, including 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. The legislature believes that understanding
11 the environmental impacts of wastewater spills is critical to
12 better protecting Hawaii's coral reef ecosystems.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 university of Hawaii environmental center to conduct ongoing
15 studies of the environmental impacts of sewage spills on
16 affected coral reefs.



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

4 "§304A- Coral reefs; duties of the center. (a) The
5 environmental center shall conduct ongoing studies of the
6 environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs.
7 Studies shall include damage evaluations, identification of
8 diseases, and recommendations for mitigating detrimental
9 effects.

10 (b) The environmental center shall submit an annual report
11 on its findings pursuant to this section to the legislature no
12 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
13 session. The reports may include proposed legislation."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2022-2023 to conduct ongoing studies on the environmental impact
19 of sewage spills on coral reefs.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
21 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 522

1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

Lynn DeCote

JAN 22 2021



H.B. NO. 522

Report Title:

UH; Environment; Coral Reefs; Raw Sewage; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the university of Hawaii environmental center to conduct ongoing studies of the environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs and submit an annual report to the legislature prior to the convening of each regular session. Appropriates moneys.

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