

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of chemical-  
2 based sunscreen is detrimental to the health of Hawai'i's coral  
3 reef ecosystems. The National Ocean Service finds that the  
4 chemicals in both lotion and aerosol sunscreens can impair the  
5 growth of plants, stunt and deform animals, and contribute to  
6 the bleaching of coral. In 2018, the legislature passed Senate  
7 Bill No. 2571, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, signed into law as  
8 Act 104, that bans the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of  
9 any sunscreen in the State that contains oxybenzone or  
10 octinoxate, or both, without a medically-licensed prescription.  
11 Recently, there have been additional efforts to expand the ban  
12 to include more chemicals, such as avobenzone and octocrylene,  
13 that negatively impact Hawai'i's fragile coral reefs. However,  
14 opponents have expressed concerns with limited stock of approved  
15 sunscreens available on island for consumers, which has halted  
16 efforts to further protect Hawai'i's coral reefs.



1       The legislature further finds that an alternative mineral-  
2   based sunscreen exists that protects consumers from skin cancer  
3   and does not harm the reef ecosystems. The first dispenser of  
4   this sunscreen in a Hawai'i state park was established in  
5   November 2021 at the Waialae section of Hāpuna state recreation  
6   area on the west coast of Hawai'i island. The legislature also  
7   finds that the deployment of sunscreen dispensers at state  
8   beaches will ease the burden of securing reef-safe sunscreens  
9   for use by residents and visitors alike, as well as further  
10  protect Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.

11       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 12       (1) Expand the use of the mineral-based sunscreen  
13           dispensers to all state beaches to decrease the amount  
14           of chemicals impacting Hawai'i's reef ecosystems; and  
15       (2) Authorize the department of land and natural resources  
16           to contract or form a partnership with private  
17           parties, such as hotels, community organizations, and  
18           nonprofit organizations with an environmental  
19           protection mission, to assist in the maintenance and  
20           management of installed mineral-based sunscreen  
21           dispensers at state beaches, as well as publicize that



1           the mineral-based sunscreen in these dispensers is  
2           more protective of the coral reefs of the State.

3           SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources  
4 may contract or form a partnership with private parties,  
5 including hotels, community organizations, and nonprofit  
6 organizations with an environmental protection mission, to  
7 assist in the maintenance, management, and operation of  
8 installed mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all state  
9 beaches, as well as publicize that the mineral-based sunscreen  
10 in these dispensers is more protective of the coral reefs of the  
11 State.

12          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2026-2027 for the department of land and natural resources to  
17 install, maintain, manage, and operate mineral-based sunscreen  
18 dispensers at all state beaches.

19          The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'DKR' in a stylized, cursive font, followed by a horizontal line.

# S.B. NO. 840

**Report Title:**

DLNR; Non-Chemical Sunscreen Dispensers; State Beaches;  
Appropriations

**Description:**

Allows the Department of Land and Natural Resources to contract or form a partnership with private parties to assist with the maintenance and management of sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches, as well as publicize that the mineral-based sunscreen in these dispensers is more protective of the coral reefs of the State. Appropriates funds for the installation, maintenance, management, and operation of non-chemical sunscreen dispensers on all state beaches.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

