

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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



1 The legislature further finds that an alternative
2 mineral-based sunscreen exists that protects consumers from skin
3 cancer and does not harm the reef ecosystems. The first
4 dispenser of this sunscreen in a Hawai'i state park was
5 established in November 2021 at the Waialae section of Hāpuna
6 state recreation area on the west coast of Hawai'i island. The
7 legislature also finds that the deployment of sunscreen
8 dispensers at state beaches will ease the burden of securing
9 reef-safe sunscreens for use by residents and visitors alike, as
10 well as further 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 2026-2027 for the
15 department of land and natural resources to install, maintain,
16 manage, and operate mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all
17 state beaches.

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



S.B. NO. 2426

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

2

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2426

Report Title:

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

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.

