

## ACT 265

S.B. NO. 113

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Characterization of Non-Ciguatera Marine Toxin in Reef Fish and Algae.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a potent marine toxin is suspected of being the agent responsible for the deaths of two Atlantic dolphins living in the lagoon of the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa in the spring of 1989. This is the first report that a toxin of this type is present in waters around the State. The toxic compound or compounds were found in the mullet, wrasse, aholehole, and manini caught in the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa lagoon. Lower levels of this toxin were also found in the dolphins and sand and algae from the dolphin pond. Not much is known about the nature of this toxin, its source, its relative toxicity, or how it is formed.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for a study to:

- (1) Identify the algae consumed by fish inhabiting the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa lagoon and waters off the resort;
- (2) Test the algae for toxicity; and
- (3) Initiate characterization studies of this new toxin or toxins.

This study is of particular importance because reef fish are a major source of food and recreation for the people of Hawaii, and it has been speculated that

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the production of this toxin may be associated with changes to the near-shore marine environment.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$77,038, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1991-1992, and the sum of \$58,078, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1992-1993, for the University of Hawaii to carry out the study described in section 1 of this Act.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of health.

SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature not less than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of 1994 or not later than two months after the completion of the study, whichever is earlier.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1991.

(Approved June 14, 1991.)