

**ACT 175**

H.B. NO. 2959

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Marine Environment.

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

SECTION 1. In accordance with Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 1992-1993 to

be exceeded by \$100,000, or .0032 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriation made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

SECTION 2. The legislature finds that massive marine algal blooms have recently been occurring in the waters off West Maui. Such blooms, oftentimes caused by nutrient subsidies from runoff of fertilizers, can damage or kill coral colonies and can cause thick deposits on beaches, resulting in severe degradation for beach users.

The first reported incident occurred in 1989. This outbreak led to a University of Hawaii study to determine whether the Kaanapali golf course or the Kaanapali sewage treatment plant was responsible for these blooms. This study could not identify any culpable source of input from the golf course or sewage treatment plant.

In 1991, a second algal bloom occurred, the extent of which far exceeded the 1989 event. This time, the suspected cause was storm runoff from agricultural and residential development that entered the ocean through newly-constructed drainage culverts. However, a study is needed to verify this theory.

Recently, a task force was formed to address this problem. Led by the department of health, this task force hopes to identify the cause of these incidents. However, funding is required to achieve any tangible results.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the department of health to identify the cause of the recent algal blooms in the marine waters off West Maui.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1992-1993, for the department of health to investigate the causes of algal blooms in the marine waters off of West Maui. The study shall focus on two predominant algal species: *Cladophora* spp. and *Hypnea* spp. The department of health shall report findings and recommendations to the legislature not later than twenty days before the beginning of the regular session of 1993.

SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1992.

(Approved June 12, 1992.)