

JAN 25 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that oxybenzone, a common
2 sunscreen ingredient, has detrimental effects on coral reefs.
3 The World Conservation Congress of the International Union for
4 Conservation of Nature met in September 2016 in Honolulu. The
5 Congress disclosed that 2015 research led by a University of
6 Hawai'i professor implicated oxybenzone in coral larvae
7 deformity, bleaching, and DNA damage that weakens coral systems'
8 cpra; adaptability to climate change. The threat is
9 particularly acute in Hawaiian ocean waters where coral
10 bleaching is occurring at a historic rate never before noted in
11 recorded history.

12 The legislature further finds that there are reasonable
13 alternatives to oxybenzone-based sunscreens that allow beach
14 users to enjoy the outdoors without compromising sun protection,
15 such as zinc oxide and titanium oxide.

16 The findings of the World Conservation Congress of the
17 International Union for Conservation of Nature is in line with



1 the senate's focus on "Aloha Honua - Climate Change and Energy".
2 Aloha Honua seeks to protect and preserve Hawai'i's natural
3 resources by exploring ways to improve agricultural practices
4 and mitigate climate change impacts. Aloha Honua is a
5 commitment to supporting the preservation of nature's unique
6 geographic features, including coral reefs, coastlines, and
7 watersheds. Aloha Honua also encourages the use of innovative
8 technologies to combat invasive species, address biosecurity
9 risks, conserve the State's water resources and coral reefs,
10 address changing sea levels, and protect the State's fragile
11 marine ecosystem.

12 As such, the purpose of this Act is to protect Hawai'i's
13 coral reefs by prohibiting the use of sunscreens and cosmetics
14 containing oxybenzone at beaches.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
17 and to read as follows:

18 "§187A- Oxybenzone; sunscreen and cosmetics
19 restrictions. No person shall use or apply sunscreen, sunblock,
20 or cosmetic containing any oxybenzone while on a beach or in the
21 ocean.



S.B. NO. 1150

1 For purposes of this section, "oxybenzone" includes
2 benzophenone-3 and 2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl phenylmethanone."

3 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 1150

Report Title:

Sunscreen; Oxybenzone; Beaches

Description:

Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic containing oxybenzone while on a beach or in the ocean.

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