

JAN 20 2023

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 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 Act
8 104, that bans the sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the
9 State of any sunscreen that contains oxybenzone or octinoxate,
10 or both, without a medically-licensed prescription. Recently,
11 there have been additional efforts to expand the ban to include
12 more chemicals, such as avobenzone and octocrylene, that
13 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 with private parties, such as hotels,
17 community organizations, and nonprofit organizations
18 with an environmental protection mission, to assist in
19 the maintenance and management of installed
20 mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at state beaches.



1 SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources
2 may contract with private parties, including hotels, community
3 organization, and nonprofit organization with an environmental
4 protection mission, to assist in the maintenance, management,
5 and operation of installed mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at
6 all state beaches.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2024-2025 for the department of land and natural resources to
12 install, maintain, manage, and operate mineral-based sunscreen
13 dispensers at all state beaches.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 748

Report Title:

Non-Chemical Sunscreen Dispensers; Department of Land and Natural Resources; State Beaches; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the construction and operation of non-chemical sunscreen dispensers on all state beaches to alleviate the damaging effects of chemical-based sunscreen on reef ecosystems. Allows the Department of Land and Natural Resources to contract with private parties to assist with the maintenance and management of sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches.

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