
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 1992, the
2 University of Hawaii sea grant college program published the
3 report, "Oil Spills at Sea: Potential Impacts on Hawaii," which
4 estimated economic losses of \$6,800,000,000 if a catastrophic
5 oil spill reached the beaches at Waikiki. This led to the
6 preparation of the 1996 report, "Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent
7 and Respond to Oil Spills," hereafter referred to as the "1996
8 report," which has been the foundation of Hawaii's emergency
9 spill response planning and was written in partnership with the
10 department of health, department of land and natural resources,
11 and department of transportation.

12 The legislature further finds that the 1996 report has not
13 been updated, despite the potential dire economic and
14 environmental consequences of an oil spill in Hawaii as
15 indicated by the 1992 economic analysis conducted by the
16 University of Hawaii sea grant college program. In September
17 2013, Hawaii experienced an example of the potential impacts
18 from a spill when hundreds of thousands of gallons of molasses



1 were spilled into Honolulu Harbor. News of the spill spread
2 globally, which further highlights the need to prepare a spill
3 prevention plan. Fortunately, molasses dissolves in water and
4 will eventually be broken down by bacteria. However, the
5 immediate impacts to the ecosystem remain, and the impacts from
6 an oil spill would be more persistent and damaging.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Require the University of Hawaii sea grant college
9 program to submit a report updating the 1996 report to
10 the legislature; and
11 (2) Appropriate funds for staffing and resources to update
12 the 1996 report.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii sea grant college
14 program shall prepare a report updating the 1996 report.

15 (b) The updated report shall:

- 16 (1) Concentrate on the prevention and mitigation of a
17 variety of contaminant spills into our environment;
18 (2) Identify natural hazards and spill risk plans; and
19 (3) Update critical facilities and hazard maps in the
20 State.



1 (c) In preparing the report, the University of Hawaii sea
2 grant college program shall conduct interviews with major
3 stakeholders, including:

- 4 (1) The department of health;
- 5 (2) The department of land and natural resources;
- 6 (3) The department of transportation;
- 7 (4) The United States Coast Guard;
- 8 (5) The United States Environmental Protection Agency; and
- 9 (6) Any other organization, company, individual, or expert
10 that the sea grant college program deems necessary.

11 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii sea grant college
12 program, in consultation with major stakeholders, shall submit a
13 report updating the 1996 report to the legislature, including
14 findings, recommendations, and proposed draft legislation, if
15 necessary, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the regular session of 2016.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$234,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide
20 funding for staffing, administrative and technical support,
21 office equipment and supplies, and travel expenses to enable the



1 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to update the
2 1996 report.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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H.B. NO. 2620

Report Title:

Oil Spill Prevention; Sea Grant College Program; University of Hawaii; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to submit a report updating the 1996 report on oil spills. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources to update the 1996 report. Effective July 1, 2014.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

