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# 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 \$ or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
20 provide funding for staffing, administrative and technical  
21 support, office equipment and supplies, and travel expenses to



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



**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. (SD1)

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