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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE MICROBE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are sixteen  
2 adopted, designated, and established official symbols of the  
3 state of Hawaii. This number increases to thirty-one when  
4 designated flowers and colors of the individual islands are also  
5 included. From the state motto, "ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka  
6 pono," which, translated, means "the life of the land is  
7 perpetuated in righteousness," to the state plant, kalo  
8 (*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott), these designated symbols are  
9 representative of all things unique to the State of Hawaii and  
10 its individual islands. Missing from this group of symbols is  
11 an official state microbe.

12           In 2012, those who supported the establishment of a state  
13 microbe were tasked with finding a new and relevant species that  
14 is unique in origin to Hawaii. Scientists and students joined  
15 together in research efforts and studies and collaboratively  
16 decided upon *Flavobacterium akiainvovens*, which originates from  
17 or lives on *Wikstroemia oahuensis*, whose Hawaiian name is akia,  
18 which also means an endemic shrub.



1           Discovered and named by Iolani School student Iris Kuo in  
2 collaboration with Dr. Stuart P. Donachie and Dr. Jimmy Saw of  
3 the University of Hawaii at Manoa's department of microbiology;  
4 Dr. Durrell D. Kapan and Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro of the center  
5 for conservation and research training; and Stephanie  
6 Christensen of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's department of  
7 oceanography, this bacterium forms two to three millimeter  
8 diameter colonies that range from cream to off-white in color  
9 and wet to mucoid in viscosity, and was isolated from decaying  
10 *Wikstroemia oahuensis* collected on the island of Oahu.

11           As an organism originating in Hawaii, the legislature  
12 further finds that the designation of *Flavobacterium*  
13 *akiainvivens* as the state microbe will further emphasize the  
14 unique nature of our island state.

15           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to designate  
16 *Flavobacterium akiainvivens* as the official microbe of the  
17 state.

18           SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
19 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
20 read as follows:

21           "§5-        State microbe. The *Flavobacterium akiainvivens*,  
22 originating from or living on akia, a native Hawaiian shrub, is



1 established and designated as the official microbe of the  
2 State."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

State Microbe

**Description:**

Establishes and designates *Flavobacterium akiainvovens* as the official microbe of the State. (HB293 HD1)

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

