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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 more than  
2 fifteen adopted, designated, and established official symbols of  
3 the State of Hawaii and more than thirty official symbols 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 the State. Scientists and students  
15 joined together in research efforts and studies and  
16 collaboratively decided upon *Flavobacterium akiainvivens*, which



1 originates from or lives on *Wikstroemia oahuensis*, whose  
2 Hawaiian name is akia, which means an endemic shrub.

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

13 The legislature further finds that the designation of  
14 *Flavobacterium akiainvovens*, an organism originating in Hawaii,  
15 as the state microbe will further emphasize the unique nature of  
16 our State.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate  
18 *Flavobacterium akiainvovens* as the official microbe of the  
19 State.




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

4 "§5- State microbe. The *Flavobacterium akiainvivens*,  
5 originating from or living on akia, a native Hawaiian shrub, is  
6 established and designated as the official microbe of the  
7 State."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

10

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 26 2016



# H.B. NO. 2467

**Report Title:**

State Microbe; *Flavobacterium akiainvovens*

**Description:**

Establishes and designates *Flavobacterium akiainvovens* as the official microbe of the State.

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

