
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pollution from land-
2 based sources is a primary cause of coral reef degradation
3 throughout the world. In particular, research shows that raw
4 human waste contain microbes that are responsible for coral
5 diseases, such as white pox and black band disease, that are
6 capable of devastating large patches of reef. In recent years,
7 Hawaii has experienced numerous wastewater spills that have
8 released raw sewage into the ocean. These have ranged from an
9 estimated ten thousand gallons in 2016 to five hundred thousand
10 gallons in 2015. The legislature believes that understanding
11 the environmental impacts of wastewater spills is critical to
12 better protecting Hawaii's coral reef ecosystems.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart G, to be
15 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

16 "§304A- Coral reefs; duties of the center. (a) The
17 environmental center shall conduct ongoing studies of the



1 environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs.
2 Studies shall include damage evaluations, identification of
3 diseases, and recommendations for mitigating detrimental
4 effects.

5 (b) The environmental center shall submit an annual report
6 on its findings pursuant to this section to the legislature no
7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
8 session. The reports may include proposed legislation."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
13 2018-2019 to conduct ongoing studies on the environmental impact
14 of sewage spills on coral reefs.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
16 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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H.B. NO. 1700

Report Title:

Environment; Coral Reefs; Raw Sewage; Appropriation

Description:

Requires UH Environmental Center to conduct ongoing studies of the environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs. Requires UH Environmental Center to submit an annual report to the legislature prior to the convening of regular sessions. Appropriations.

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