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# 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 M, to be  
15 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

16           "§304A-    Hawaii institute of marine biology; coral reefs.

17           (a) The Hawaii institute of marine biology shall conduct



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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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**Report Title:**

Environment; Coral Reefs; Raw Sewage; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii institute of marine biology at UH to conduct ongoing studies of the environmental impacts of sewage spills on affected coral reefs. Requires the institute of marine biology to submit an annual report to the legislature prior to the convening of each regular session. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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

