
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 oxybenzone, a
2 chemical found in some sunscreens and other personal care
3 products sold in the State of Hawaii, has been shown to cause
4 serious harm to corals.

5 According to a recent study by the Haereticus Environmental
6 Laboratory, oxybenzone causes deformities in coral larvae,
7 making them unable to swim, settle out, and form new coral
8 colonies. Oxybenzone also increases the rate at which coral
9 bleaching occurs. This puts coral reef health at risk and
10 reduces reef resiliency to climate change.

11 Sunscreen chemicals enter the ocean by washing off
12 swimmers, surfers, paddlers, spearfishers, divers, and other
13 ocean users. Researchers have found oxybenzone concentrations
14 in some Hawaiian waters at more than thirty times the level
15 considered safe for corals. Oxybenzone has also been shown to
16 disrupt the development of fish and other marine life.



1 Oxybenzone may also have negative effects on human health.
2 Oxybenzone and two other sunscreen chemicals, octinoxate and
3 homosalate, have all been shown to cause disruptive reproductive
4 system effects due to their hormone-like activity. Oxybenzone
5 and octinoxate have also been associated with moderate to high
6 rates of skin allergy.

7 The legislature further finds that there are alternative
8 sunscreens and personal care products available that do not
9 contain oxybenzone. Recommended sunscreens use mineral filters,
10 such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide.

11 Hawaii is a popular tourist destination that is known for
12 its beautiful beaches and coral reefs. It is important for the
13 State of Hawaii to promote ocean health and protect its
14 surrounding coral reefs from negative effects that can be
15 controlled or mitigated.

16 The purpose of this Act is to promote ocean health by
17 prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale
18 of sunscreen or personal care products containing oxybenzone.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
21 and to read as follows:



1 "§342D- Sale of sunscreens and personal care products
2 containing oxybenzone; prohibited. (a) It shall be unlawful to
3 sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale sunscreens or
4 personal care products that contain oxybenzone.

5 (b) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty
6 of a petty misdemeanor."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 28, 2081.



Report Title:

Sunscreen; Personal Care Products; Oxybenzone; Ban

Description:

Bans the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of sunscreen or personal care products containing oxybenzone.
(HB600 HD1)

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