
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that oxybenzone, a common
2 sunscreen ingredient, has detrimental effects on coral reefs.
3 The World Conservation Congress of the International Union for
4 Conservation of Nature met in September 2016 in Honolulu. The
5 Congress disclosed that 2015 research led by a University of
6 Hawai'i professor implicated oxybenzone in coral larvae
7 deformity, bleaching, and DNA damage that weakens coral systems'
8 adaptability to climate change. The threat is particularly
9 acute in Hawaiian ocean waters where coral bleaching is
10 occurring at a historic rate never before noted in recorded
11 history.

12 The legislature further finds that there are reasonable
13 alternatives to oxybenzone-based sunscreens, such as zinc oxide
14 and titanium oxide, that allow beach users to enjoy the outdoors
15 without compromising sun protection.

16 The findings of the World Conservation Congress of the
17 International Union for Conservation of Nature are in line with
18 the senate's focus on "Aloha Honua - Climate Change and Energy".



1 Aloha Honua seeks to protect and preserve Hawai'i's natural
2 resources by exploring ways to improve agricultural practices
3 and mitigate climate change impacts. Aloha Honua is a
4 commitment to supporting the preservation of nature's unique
5 geographic features, including coral reefs, coastlines, and
6 watersheds. Aloha Honua also encourages the use of innovative
7 technologies to combat invasive species, address biosecurity
8 risks, conserve the State's water resources and coral reefs,
9 address changing sea levels, and protect the State's fragile
10 marine ecosystem.

11 The purpose of this Act is to protect Hawai'i's coral reefs
12 by prohibiting the use of sunscreens and cosmetics containing
13 oxybenzone at beaches or in the ocean.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 **"§187A- Oxybenzone; sunscreen and cosmetics**
18 **restrictions.** No person shall use or apply sunscreen, sunblock,
19 or cosmetic containing any oxybenzone while on a beach in Hawaii
20 or in the ocean, unless the sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic is
21 a prescription drug as defined in section 328-112.



1 For purposes of this section, "oxybenzone" includes
2 benzophenone-3 and 2-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl phenylmethanone."

3 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Sunscreen; Oxybenzone; Beaches; Ocean

Description:

Prohibits the use or application of sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic containing oxybenzone while on a beach or in the ocean unless the sunscreen, sunblock, or cosmetic is a prescribed drug. (SD1)

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