
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A CAMPAIGN
TO EDUCATE VISITORS TO THE STATE ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS
OF OXYBENZONE SUNSCREEN ON CORAL REEFS AND TO ENCOURAGE
VISITORS TO THE STATE TO REFRAIN FROM USING OXYBENZONE
SUNSCREENS.

1 WHEREAS, the decline of coral reefs poses a significant
2 ecological threat worldwide; and
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4 WHEREAS, while scientists around the world agree that the
5 primary causes of coral decline are related to global warming,
6 agricultural runoff, sewage, and overfishing, recent studies
7 have shown that that oxybenzone, a common sunscreen ingredient,
8 also has detrimental effects on coral reefs; and
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10 WHEREAS, coral larvae deformity, bleaching, and DNA damage
11 that weaken coral systems' adaptability to climate change have
12 all been attributed to oxybenzone exposure; and
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14 WHEREAS, the harmful effects of oxybenzone are particularly
15 acute in Hawaiian ocean waters where coral bleaching is
16 occurring at a historic rate never before noted in recorded
17 history; and
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19 WHEREAS, there are reasonable alternatives to oxybenzone-
20 based sunscreens, such as zinc oxide and titanium oxide, that
21 allow beach-users to enjoy the outdoors without compromising sun
22 protection; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Tourism
27 Authority is requested to establish a campaign to educate
28 visitors to the State about the harmful effects of oxybenzone



H.C.R. NO. 114

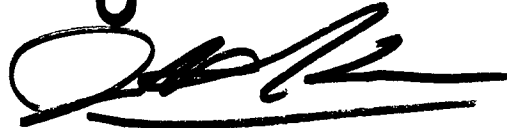
1 sunscreen on coral reefs and to encourage visitors to the State
 2 to refrain from using oxybenzone sunscreens; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is
 5 requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than
 6 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 7 2019, on the efforts taken to educate visitors to the State
 8 about the harmful effects of oxybenzone sunscreen on coral reefs
 9 and to encourage visitors to the State to refrain from using
 10 oxybenzone sunscreens; and
 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
 14 Hawaii Tourism Authority.
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 17

OFFERED BY:

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