

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**  
**8:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 2723**  
**RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS**

House Bill 2723 prohibits the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone, unless the sunscreen is a prescription drug. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the concerns about the presence of oxybenzone, and similar compounds such as octinoxate, in water. Peer-reviewed studies have documented the negative impact of these chemicals on corals and other marine life in a laboratory setting. Prohibiting the sale of products containing oxybenzone may benefit the health and resiliency of Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems. The Department recommends support of increased monitoring of oxybenzone and similar chemicals at high-use swimming areas and the support of further research examining the effects of these chemicals on the nearshore marine environment in Hawai'i.

It should be noted that the primary stressors of coral reefs in Hawai'i are related to land-based source pollution, over-fishing, invasive species, and climate change. Continued legislative support of efforts to reduce these stressors will have the largest impact on coral reef resilience and recovery state-wide.

The Department also recognizes the hazards associated with UV exposure and the need for preventative measures to mitigate negative health effects. The Department defers to the Department of Health on human health-related issues, and on the implementation and enforcement of any oxybenzone sale and distribution provisions.

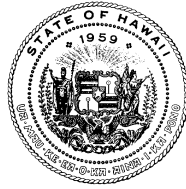
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2723**

**RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 6, 2018  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No funding is provided to implement this measure and the Department  
2 defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for appropriation priorities.

3 **Department Testimony:** H.B. 2723 seeks to prohibit the sale of non-prescription sunscreen  
4 protection personal care products containing oxybenzone beginning in 2023. The Department  
5 supports the intent of this measure and has the following comments.

6 The Department of Health is concerned about the release of chemicals from personal care  
7 products into the marine environment. We support further research by the Environmental  
8 Protection Agency and United States Food and Drug Administration on the human and  
9 environmental risks of sunscreen ingredients. Research by local and national coral experts has  
10 shown that levels of oxybenzone in the marine environment may be high enough to pose  
11 deleterious effects on coral reef ecosystems. Oxybenzone may have negative effects on human  
12 health as well. However, oxybenzone is one of eight FDA approved ingredients currently in use  
13 that play an important role in reducing the risk of some forms of skin cancer, so balancing public  
14 health protection here in Hawaii is a very important consideration. Oxybenzone is widely used  
15 in chemical sunscreen products so a key concern from the public health perspective is the  
16 availability and user acceptance of safe, affordable and effective alternatives.

1 This measure seeks to amend Chapter 328 to implement the ban. The Department is hesitant to  
2 take on responsibility for this ban without having a clear understanding of the safety, efficacy  
3 and user acceptance of alternative sunscreen products to protect public health. Further,  
4 implementation of this measure by the Department would take away limited resources from other  
5 critical public health priorities.

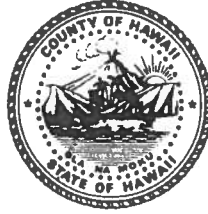
6 The Department is not aware of any impending federal or state regulations to remove or restrict  
7 oxybenzone or related chemicals from sunscreens, or significant voluntary reformulation of  
8 popular products by major sunscreen manufacturers to offer consumers “reef safe” alternatives.

9 The Department strongly supports DLNR’s and the National Park Services’ public education  
10 efforts and outreach strategies to reach out to inform Hawaii beachgoers about steps that they can  
11 take to reduce the unintended impacts of oxybenzone use while safely enjoying our tropical  
12 marine waters and sunny beaches throughout Hawaii. The Department also supports academic  
13 and applied research further investigating the fate and environmental effects of oxybenzone and  
14 other sunscreen compounds in the nearshore marine environment.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None.

**Maile Medeiros David**  
Council District 6  
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū/Volcano



Phone: (808) 323-4277  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: [maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 1, 2018

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Hawai'i State Capitol, House Conference Room 3325  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: H.B. No. 2723 – Relating to Preserving Coral Reefs.

Honorable Chair Lee and Vice Chair Lowen:

Aloha and mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. No. 2723. My name is Maile David, Councilmember representing Council District 6 (rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū and Volcano Village). I am a strong supporter of preserving our coral reefs and the intent of H.B. 2723 regarding oxybenzone sunscreen restrictions.

Recent studies have shown that oxybenzone found in sunscreens, are partly responsible for the detrimental effects to our coral reefs and coral bleaching. I strongly support preserving and protecting our cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i island and therefore respectfully request that H.B. 2723 be favorably considered.

Mahalo a nui loa for your positive consideration.

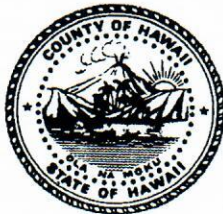
Very truly yours,

*Maile David*

Maile David, Council Member  
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village

**Eileen O'Hara**  
Council Member  
Council District 4

**Chair:** Environmental  
Management Committee



**Phone:** (808) 965-2712  
**Fax:** (808) 961-8912  
**Email:** eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

**Vice Chair:** Planning Committee and  
Agriculture, Water & Energy  
Sustainability Committee

**County of Hawaii**  
**Hawaii County Council**  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Representative Chris Lee  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

February 1, 2018

**Re: In Support of House Bill 2723, from Hawai'i County Council District 4.**  
**To be heard by EEP on 02-06-18 8:30AM in House conference room 325**

Aloha Chair Lee and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 2723, which prohibits the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone, unless the sunscreen is a prescription drug.

Hawai'i's coral reefs are being bleached at an unprecedented rate, and recent studies show that oxybenzone may be part of the problem. Though our economy is heavily supported by tourists coming to visit these reefs, and sunscreen is essential to ensure the health of our citizens and these visitors, protecting our reefs must be paramount. Alternatives to oxybenzone in sunscreen products are available, and banning sunscreen containing oxybenzone for sale will send a message to further research and promote other viable options.

I do not hesitate to support any measure which has such positive impacts on the ecology and environment of Hawai'i. Please contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara  
Council Member  
Council District 4

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:21:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, honorable members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii. I am writing this in strong support of HB2723, which is due for a hearing on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 8:30 AM, and ask it to be advanced through this committee.

As a young person, I want to ask you to please support this bill. Coral reefs are simply amazing, although I only managed to go scuba diving once in my life, I will never forget going scuba diving in Maui during my high school's annual Biology Trip and getting a chance to see the coral reef and how beautiful it is, marine life congregating around it. It was just a real special moment to me. I don't want something special like this to not exist in the future.

I don't want my kids to be learning about coral reefs as though they are ancient history, and if such a notable aspect of the ocean one day gives out, it will dramatically alter not just marine life, but human life as fishes will be affected and in the cases of Hawaii where people come as tourists to check out the beauty of our oceans, without coral reefs, this will definitely take a hit.

We need to look at alternative forms of skincare products as an article in the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration reports that Oxybenzone in these products, "increased susceptibility to bleaching; DNA damage; abnormal skeleton growth (via endocrine disruption); and gross deformities of baby coral" (<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/nov15/sunscreen-corals.html>). With there being so many products with Oxybenzone in them currently in existence, coral reefs take a hit every time an individual who uses such a product enters the water, so it's really amazing that the state is taking initiative and moving on it as we are running out of time. I look forward to learning and improving my testimony in the hearings to come. Please support this bill, not only for the environment, but for the future.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation on this issue,

Jun Shin,  
Board Member At-Large  
YPDA Hawaii  
1561 Kanunu St. Honolulu, HI 96814  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Vice Chair*  
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**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**John Shilf**, Rainbow Sales & Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Barry Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

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#### TO: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair  
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, February 6, 2018  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: HB 2723 RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS, HB 2264 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Position: OPPOSITION

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

The HFIA proposes that since this bill would ban many products that are used to prevent skin cancer, that a higher standards of review should be conducted to ensure that taking this action would indeed improve outcomes for reefs. The State of Hawaii recently conducted an information review from top Hawaii scientist studying our reefs. The presenters discussed, increased water temperatures, run-off, sewage and overfishing. Not one of Hawaii's top reef scientists mentioned sunscreen as an issue.

We care about offering products individuals feel comfortable using on a daily basis to prevent skin cancer. This bill impacts federally approved and regulated healthcare products. If there is an abundance of peer-reviewed science to make a conclusion on this issue, then the federal government agencies tasked with making these sorts of determinations would be the best entities to make that determination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I  
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:30AM Room 325

**In SUPPORT of HB 2723** Relating to preserving coral reefs

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Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports the intent of HB 2723**, which seeks to prohibit the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone, unless the sunscreen is a prescription drug beginning January 1, 2023. Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports the *intent* of this measure, and offers the following two comments:

- The ban should take place immediately, or, at the very latest, effectuate on January 1, 2019.
- The language prohibiting counties from enacting any ordinance or regulatory restriction should be removed.

Oxybenzone is a chemical UV filter that is added to nearly 70% of non-mineral sunscreens<sup>1</sup>. It commonly washes into our oceans when applied at the beach, effectively harming our coral reef ecosystems. The chemical ingredient oxybenzone damages coral DNA and inhibits their ability to reproduce, causes deformities on the coral, makes them more susceptible to bleaching, and initiates endocrine disruption.<sup>2,3</sup> These pathologies can occur at concentrations as low as 62 parts per trillion, but some beaches in Hawai'i have oxybenzone levels higher than 700 parts per

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ewg.org/sunscreen/report/the-trouble-with-sunscreen-chemicals/>

<sup>2</sup> Downs CA, Kramarsky-Winter E, Segal R, et al. Toxicopathological Effects of the Sunscreen UV Filter, Oxybenzone (Benzophenone-3), on Coral Planulae and Cultured Primary Cells and Its Environmental Contamination in Hawaii and the U.S. Virgin Islands. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol* 2015 Oct 20. doi: 10.1007/s00244-015-0227-7

<sup>3</sup> DiNardo, JC and Downs, CA. Dermatological and environmental toxicological impact of the sunscreen ingredient oxybenzone/benzophenone-3. *J Cosmet Dermatol* 2017; 00:1–5.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/jocd.12449>

trillion<sup>4</sup>, a major concern when our reef system annually generates about \$800 million in gross revenues.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the deleterious harm oxybenzone inflicts on our fragile reef systems, it is also a known endocrine disruptor and the science is becoming ever more conclusive in its link to illnesses ranging from skin allergies, to thyroid problems, to cancer<sup>6</sup>.

Panels held at the International Union for the Conservation for Nature (IUCN) and International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in Honolulu have both suggested that Oxybenzone is toxic to corals and urge that we stop using these products<sup>7, 8</sup>. The State's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is also asking people who enter the ocean to avoid using sunscreens which contain oxybenzone.<sup>9</sup>

While these voluntary, educational efforts to curb the usage of these products are commendable, an effective way to prevent these chemicals from entering our waterways is to pass HB 2723 and prohibit the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone. Many visitors purchase sunscreen once they arrive to the islands and this bill ensures that oxybenzone and other reef harming chemicals will not be sold in the state.

Although there are many causes of reef degradation, HB 2723 provides a sensible opportunity to help maintain the economic, ecological, cultural, and recreational value of Hawai'i's reef systems. No one likes to see a film of floating chemical-laden sunscreen on our ocean surfaces. Banning oxybenzone protects our vulnerable reef ecosystems from toxic products and promotes the usage of reef-safe sunscreens that are mineral, not chemical based.

We support the intent of HB 2723 and urge the Committee to consider the comments we have provided.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.marinesafe.org/blog/2016/05/12/how-sunscreen-is-putting-coral-reefs-at-risk/>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.hawaii.edu/ssri/cron/files/econ\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.hawaii.edu/ssri/cron/files/econ_brochure.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.haereticus-lab.org/oxybenzone/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/09/drop-the-oxybenzone-or-stop-swimming-in-hawaiian-waters/>

<sup>8</sup>

<http://www.honolulumagazine.com/Honolulu-Magazine/June-2016/Your-Sunscreen-Might-Be-Killing-Coral-Reefs-in-Hawaii/>

<sup>9</sup>

<http://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/latest-news/dlnr-news-release-ocean-users-urged-to-use-reef-safe-sunscreens/>

**Testimony of**

**Kelvin Bloom  
Aqua-Aston Hospitality, LLC**

**Before the House Committee on  
Energy & Environmental Protection**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2723  
RELATING TO PRESERVING THE CORAL REEFS**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Committee Members:

I am Kelvin Bloom, Manager of Aqua-Aston Hospitality, LLC, which manages many hotels and resorts in the State of Hawaii. Aqua-Aston Hospitality supports House Bill 2723, which would prohibit the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone. The ban would take effect on January 1, 2023.

As a member of Hawaii's hospitality industry for 70 years, Aqua-Aston Hospitality is keenly aware of the important role Hawaii's beaches and oceans play in the State's tourism industry and economy. Hawaii's coral reefs are not only essential to the Pacific region ecosystem, they play a central role for tourism and contribute net benefits estimated at \$360 million a year (85% from recreational activities).

The coral bleaching crisis is a global issue, affecting not only the coral reefs in Hawaii, but also the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. NOAA has called for immediate action citing global warming and water pollution from agriculture and sunblock as the top causes of the crisis. Oxybenzone is found in over 3,500 sunscreen brands, and a 2015 study published by the *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* directly linked oxybenzone to the declining health of coral reefs popular with tourists.

Aqua-Aston Hospitality has long been a champion for sustainable tourism and an advocate for timely environmental and social issues. Since 2010, we have been recognized more than any other hotel management company in Hawaii by the Hawaii Green Business Program for innovative work to conserve energy and implement sustainable practices that will protect the environment. With respect to the coral bleaching crisis, our #ForOurReef initiative seeks to raise public awareness through advertising, public relations, strategic partnerships, sampling, and trade-in programs. For example, in 2017, our radio campaigns and print ads reached over 20 million people, and we distributed 20,000 samples of reef-safe sunscreen.

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
February 6, 2018  
Page 2

House Bill 2723 seeks to protect our beaches and coral reefs and is consistent with Aqua-Aston Hospitality's sustainable tourism initiatives. For these reasons, Aqua-Aston Hospitality **supports** House Bill 2723. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelvin Bloom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kelvin Bloom  
Manager

KB:krs

# HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION

**To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Chris Lee, Chair  
Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair**

**Re: HB 2723, to Ban Sunscreens Containing OXYBENZONE after 2023, and to  
Pre-empt County Regulation**

**Hearing: Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:30 a.m., Room 325**

**Position: Comments Only**

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed last year by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens –plus bills on cesspools; Styrofoam; plastic straws, bottles and other marine debris; and sea level rise.

We have only comments with respect to HB 2723, which would ban sunscreens containing oxybenzone. This ban on sunscreens containing oxybenzone would only take effect in 2023, but it would prevent Counties from regulating these sunscreens in the meantime. We believe that these limitations are counter-productive. We believe that HB 2264, also being considered today, is a much better vehicle for banning this toxicant. HIROC thanks the Committee for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

(We are informed that the scientific definition of oxybenzone, as contained in this bill, as well as in HB 2264, is not precisely correct. Corrections are in the footnote, below.)

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Alan B. Burdick, for HIROC  
[Burdick808@gmail.com/486-1018](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com/486-1018)

"Oxybenzone" means the chemical (2-Hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-phenylmethanone under the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry chemical nomenclature registry that has a chemical abstract service registry number 131-57-7, and whose synonyms include [but are not limited to] benzophenone-3, Escalol 567, Eusolex 4360, KAHSCREEN BZ-3, 4-methoxy-2-hydroxybenzophenone and Milestab 9, and is intended to be used as protection against ultraviolet light radiation with a spectrum wavelength from ~~370~~ 400 nanometers to ~~220~~ 280 nanometers in an epidermal sunscreen-protection personal care product.



February 5, 2018

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session 2018

**RE: SUPPORT for House Bill 2723 – RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS**  
**Hearing Date – Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 8:30 AM**

Dear Chair Lee:

On behalf of Bayer, I write to express support for House Bill 2723 which would establish a timeline for the removal of oxybenzone from sunscreen products sold and used in the State of Hawaii. Bayer is one of the world's leading, innovative, life science companies. Bayer's aim is to discover, develop, manufacture, and market products that will improve human, plant, and animal health worldwide.

As the manufacturer of Coppertone sunscreens, Bayer is committed to providing a wide variety of safe and effective sun protection products to consumers. To ensure that these products provide broad spectrum protection from the sun, Bayer – like most sunscreen manufacturers in the United States – depends on a limited number of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved ingredients, including oxybenzone. Despite the fact that scientific evidence does not demonstrate that banning sunscreens containing oxybenzone is likely to have any measurable impact on the health of Hawaii's coral reefs – which are threatened primarily from causes associated with global warming, sewage discharge, and over fishing – we are sensitive to the concerns Hawaii residents have related to the decline in coral health and commend your efforts to protect this natural treasure.

Unfortunately, Bayer's ability to provide consumers a full range of oxybenzone free sun protection products has been hampered by the lack of U.S. market introduction of new sunscreen ingredients. Currently, there are limited active ingredients available within the U.S. that have the same proven effectiveness as oxybenzone for sunscreens over SPF 50 and no new sunscreen ingredients have been introduced into the U.S. market in over 15 years.

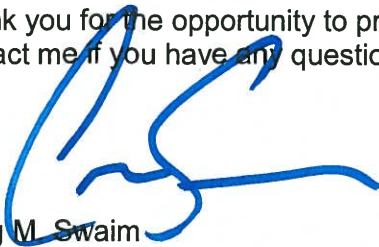
There are currently eight sunscreen ingredients pending review and approval from the FDA, several of which have been pending for over a decade. Bayer is committed to working with the FDA and other stakeholders to expedite the approval process and to bring more innovative sunscreen products to the U.S.

As such, Bayer has serious concerns with efforts to ban oxybenzone before the FDA has approved alternative ingredients and without allowing adequate time for manufacturers to reformulate their products with these ingredients. Proposals to ban oxybenzone threaten the health and safety of Hawaii residents and visitors by limiting consumer choice to lower SPF and less effective sunscreen products.

By delaying implementation until 2023, Bayer believes that HB 2723 takes a more measured approach and balances the State's desire to reduce the level of oxybenzone found in the marine environment with its obligation to protect the health and safety of its residents and visitors. Further, by ensuring a uniform statewide standard for the regulation of sun protection products containing FDA approved ingredients, the legislation will give manufacturers the certainty necessary to invest the time and resources needed to reformulate their products.

For these reasons, Bayer supports HB 2723.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Craig M. Swaim  
Deputy Director, State Government Affairs  
West Region



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI  
PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
February 6, 2018**

**HB 2723 RELATING TO PRESERVING CORAL REEFS  
HB 2264 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Good morning Chairman Lee and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii opposes HB 2723 Relating to Preserving Coral Reefs and HB 2264 Relating to the Environment. Retailers continue to be concerned about our land and ocean, and have supported many initiatives that preserve and protect our environment. However, we need to maintain a fair balance regarding the environment, sunscreen, sunblock and other sun products.

Banning the use and sale of sunscreen and other products is not the one-shot solution that will solve the issues surrounding the coral reefs. Consumers, both visitors and kama`aina may have very limited choices on sunscreen and products that are often less effective at blocking the sun and may cost a lot more. This would especially be true if many octinoxate and oxybenzone free alternatives are not available, are price sensitive or if the US Food and Drug Administration does not approve new sun screen alternative ingredients by the effective date of this measure.

We may also run the risk of people no longer wearing sunscreen and thus increasing their chances of skin cancer. This ban would also penalize those who do not go to the beach but use sunscreen on a regular basis like hikers, golfers, tennis players and joggers to name a few.

Hawaii's retailers unquestionably support initiatives to preserve and protect our environment. However, the solution to the issue of oxybenzone and octinoxate type based products is not in a total ban. More education and comprehensive studies of the coral reefs in their natural environment are needed. And we must be sure that there are truly a large variety of effective non-oxybenzone and non-octinoxate type based products that are easily available and are not cost prohibitive.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



February 6, 2018

The Honorable Chris Lee  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 436  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Opposition to HB 2723 – relating to preserving coral reefs**  
**Opposition to HB 2264 – relating to the environment**

Dear Chairman Lee:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the 136-year old national trade association representing the leading manufacturers of over-the-counter medication, I am writing to express opposition to HB 2723 and HB 2264 under consideration by the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP) on Tuesday, February 6th. Both pieces of legislation seek to regulate the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved ingredients of oxybenzone and/or octinoxate in sunscreen. While we applaud attempts to limit coral decline in Hawaii, we have strong reservations of doing so by limiting access to safe ingredients which have proven benefits against deadly skin cancers.

Oxybenzone is a safe, and effective ingredient approved by the FDA in 1978 and found in nearly 2000 personal care products on the market today including some of the most popular sunscreens, lip balms, and lotions designed to guard against sun damage. In fact, oxybenzone offers broad spectrum protection against both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays that often contribute to skin cancer.

Overwhelmingly, published research implicates global climate change as the proximate cause of coral bleaching. Secondary coral stressors include over-fishing, runoff and acidification. There are only two isolated laboratory studies which claim an association between oxybenzone exposure and coral bleaching utilizing conditions that are not indicative of a natural setting.

There is no reason to believe that these sunscreen ingredients will affect coral in the reef setting. Researchers from the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i, Kane'ohe recently suggested that localized heating and circulation patterns were primarily responsible for coral bleaching events observed across the Hawaiian Islands<sup>1</sup>. Studies performed by highly respected organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), employing decades of data, have also implicated warming water as responsible for coral bleaching events.<sup>2</sup>

When the current state of research into the causes underlying large scale bleaching of coral reef populations throughout the world is viewed in its entirety, it is prodigiously apparent that changes in ocean temperature (warming) are responsible for the vast majority of these events. Banning the use of two sunscreen ingredients which have been shown to be safe and effective in reducing the amount of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure that can cause melanoma and other skin cancers would likely produce

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<sup>1</sup> [Rodgers, K.S. et al., 2017 Patterns of bleaching and mortality following widespread warming events in 2014 and 2015 at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, Hawai'i, Peer J https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3355](https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3355)

<sup>2</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2017 Acoustic Characterization of Mesophotic Coral Reef Ecosystems of West Hawai'i, available at [https://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/NMFS/PIFSC/Projects/467/Suka2017\\_Tech\\_Memo\\_NMFS-PIFSC-61.pdf](https://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/NMFS/PIFSC/Projects/467/Suka2017_Tech_Memo_NMFS-PIFSC-61.pdf) (accessed January 29, 2018)

Consumer Healthcare Products Association  
Opposition to HB 2723 and HB 2264  
February 6, 2018 - Page 2 of 2

no measurable effect on coral reef populations while at the same time resulting in harm to overall public health.

For this reason, we ask that the House EEP Committee withdraw the proposals to ban oxybenzone and octinoxate. A greater standard of evidence must be considered before such a valuable product to people's health be banned from use or sale.


Should you have any questions for CHPA, please contact me directly or our local counsel, Ms. Lauren Zirbel at 808-294-9968 or [laurenzirbel@gmail.com](mailto:laurenzirbel@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,



Carlos I. Gutiérrez  
Vice President, State & Local Government Affairs  
Consumer Healthcare Products Association  
(202) 429-3521 [cgutierrez@chpa.org](mailto:cgutierrez@chpa.org)

Cc: Members, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection



Personal Care Products Council  
Committed to Safety,  
Quality & Innovation

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Chris Lee  
Chairman, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Opposition to HB 2723**

Chairman Lee:

On behalf of the Personal Care Products Council (the Council), I am writing to express opposition to House Bill 2723, which prohibits the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone. HB 2723 is under consideration by the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection on February 6, 2018.

The Council is the leading national trade association representing the cosmetic and personal care products industry. The Council's approximately 600 member companies manufacture and distribute the vast majority of products marketed in the U.S. As the makers of a diverse range of products that consumers rely on daily, from sunscreen, shampoo, and toothpaste to antiperspirant, moisturizer and lipstick, personal care products companies are global leaders committed to safety, quality and innovation.

Coral reef degradation is an important environmental issue that we all take seriously. However, House Bill 2264 does not address the main causes of coral bleaching, which NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) states as being pollution, climate change and overfishing. In fact, a recent publication in the scientific journal *Nature* implicates climate change as the main cause of coral bleaching. The authors also point out that coral reefs continue to be impacted even when human activities are prohibited in areas near coral habitats, indicating that climate change alone can drive reef degradation. Additionally, in January 2017, scientists from the University of Hawaii published a study showing that climate change has resulted in coral bleaching and subsequent reef decline in Hawaiian coastal waters. Professor Terry Hughes, Director of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University, reaffirmed these conclusions in a January 2018 article in *The New York Times*, stating that "coral bleaching is caused by global warming full stop." In a separate article published by *Mashable* in 2015, Professor Hughes suggested that extrapolations asserting sunscreen is damaging the world's coral "are a bit of a

stretch', and "the conclusion from the media is sunscreen is killing the world's coral, and that's laughable."

A single study (published by Downs et al. in 2015) linking sunscreens to coral bleaching has been used as a justification for House Bill 2723. However, it is not common practice to base regulation or legislation on a single ecotoxicological study. More commonly, these decisions are based on a body of evidence that leads the scientific community to draw solid conclusions and form a scientific consensus. As things stand, the Council has a number of concerns over the experimental design and conclusions that were drawn based on the data presented in this study. In particular, the conclusions were based on the results of tests conducted on coral species that are not native to Hawaii. It is also questionable whether results of *in vitro* cell line assays can be used as a proxy for coral bleaching. Other questionable experimental aspects include the use of a non-validated test system, inappropriate use of carrier solvents, lack of chemical analysis throughout the experiment and questions over how EC<sub>50</sub> values were derived. In addition, the high levels of oxybenzone detected by Downs et al. compared to those that have been detected by several other studies raise questions over the validity of these data. Overall, the available data do not support the conclusion that oxybenzone and other sunscreens pose an unacceptable environmental risk.

While the coral bleaching events are of great importance, of similar great concern is the prevalence of skin cancer diagnoses and deaths. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S. More than 10,000 people die of melanoma each year and there are more new cases of skin cancer each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Surgeon General, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), the Skin Cancer Foundation and health care professionals worldwide emphasize that using sunscreens is a critical part of a safe sun regimen. The dangers of sun exposure are clear and universally recognized by public health professionals and dermatologists. The National Institutes of Health Report on Carcinogens identifies solar UV radiation as a 'known human carcinogen.' A single bad burn in childhood greatly increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. In Hawaii alone, 2-out-of-3 adults report using sunscreens, and 4-out-of-5 parents report using sunscreen on their children. The risk of skin cancer without sunscreen is proven, and a ban on sunscreen would create a serious public health problem.

Oxybenzone is an FDA approved critical ingredient to the U.S. sunscreen market. It is a broad spectrum sunscreen, absorbing both UVA and UVB rays, that also photostabilizes other sunscreens to provide long lasting protection. The cost of oxybenzone containing sunscreens is substantially less than other alternative ingredients. Consumer costs for effective sunscreen products that have the same or similar high SPF levels will increase significantly with no measurable environmental impact.

House Bill 2723, although well intended, lacks the necessary scientific evidence to demonstrate that these two sunscreen ingredients are responsible for Hawaii's coral bleaching. Moreover, skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States. We fear this legislation will create confusion, put consumers' health at risk and potentially discourage the use of sunscreens – an important part of a safe sun regimen. Sunscreens containing oxybenzone or octinoxate are

affordable daily use products that have excellent skin cancer prevention properties that cannot be easily attained using alternative ingredients.

Since this legislation is based on one, selectively chosen, laboratory experiment, it would seem appropriate to support further research, and not rush to judgment.  
Please oppose HB 2723.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Iain Davies".

Iain Davies, Ph.D.  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Personal Care Products Council

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:51:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lindsey whitcomb		Support	No

Comments:

## In Opposition to HB2723

I am in opposition of this bill because it will allow Oxybenzone and Octinoxate to continue to accumulate in the waters of Hawaii and damage aquatic life and continue to put people in harms way of the toxic effects associated with these chemicals.

**1. While scientists from around the world agree that the primary causes of coral decline are related to global warming, agricultural runoff, sewage, and overfishing, recent studies have shown that oxybenzone, a common sunscreen ingredient, may also have detrimental effects on coral reefs.**

Scientists from all around the world agree that Oxybenzone and Octinoxate are toxic to aquatic and human life, there are well over 200 peer reviewed articles, collectively, clarifying this point. Coral reefs are not the only aquatic species being damaged everything from aquatic bacteria, algae as well as a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate life is in danger.

**2. Sunscreens play a vital role in protecting Hawaii residents and visitors from dangerous ultraviolet rays and in preventing skin cancers.**

This statement has no foundation in science and cannot be proven, it is speculative and at best is based on opinion. Sunscreens in general, regardless of Oxybenzone and/or Octinoxate content, do relatively little to reduce skin cancer based on data from US, EU and Australia government agencies, medical personnel and/or scientists.

**Sunscreen and Skin Cancer Report Card**

Group	Comment
FDA ( <b>US Dept Labeling guide</b> ).	Allowable Claims – “helps prevent sunburn” and “if used as directed with other sun protective measures (meaning sun avoidance and protective clothing), decreases the risk of skin cancer and early skin aging caused by the sun.”
US Health and Human Resources ( <b>Guy</b> )	“Skin cancer cases increased from 3.4 million in 2002–2006 to 4.9 million in 2007– 2011.”
American Cancer Society ( <b>ACS</b> )	“87,110 people will get melanoma in 2017.”
International Agency for Research on Cancer – Sunscreen Abuse ( <b>Vainio, Autier - 2 papers</b> )	“No conclusion can be drawn about the cancer-preventive activity of sunscreens against basal cell carcinoma and melanoma Use of sunscreens extend sun exposure ... which increases the risk of melanoma”
Division of Dermatology, David Geffen School of Medicine - UCLA ( <b>Chesnut</b> )	“There has only been one randomized and controlled study to examine sunscreen’s role in the prevention of Basal Cell Carcinoma, and no significant protective benefit was found.”
University of Granada Spain - School of Medicine ( <b>Martin García</b> ).	“Skin cancer incidence via World Health Organization data from the Cancer Incidence in Five Continents - observed increases in

	global skin and lip cancers for the period 1978 to 2007.”
University of Melbourne Australia - Department of Medicine ( <b>Fransen</b> ),	“Non-melanoma skin cancers increased from 412,493 in 1997 to 767,347 in 2010 and estimated 938,991 in 2015.”
Cancer Council of Western Australia ( <b>Slevin</b> )	“It’s important to understand that sunscreen is a useful adjunct to other sun protection measures (sun avoidance and protective clothing). Rather than being our first line of defense, it should be the last.”

**3. Therefore, any action taken to ban sunscreen ingredients approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration must be done in a manner that does not jeopardize the health of Hawaii’s residents and visitors while providing access to a wide range of safe and reliable sun protection products for all skin types.**

In 1978, the FDA approved Oxybenzone and Octinoxate as a safe and effective sunscreen actives based on what the current trends in toxicology were at the time ... acute toxicity testing, allergy and photo-allergy testing, a safe history of use (post-marketing data) and Sun Protection Factor (SPF) (**1978 Fed Reg**). Broad-spectrum or long wave ultraviolet (UVA) testing was non-existent at the time since we did not understand its role in skin cancer and photo-damage until the early 1990’s. However, in recent years more effective UVA actives have been discovered, such as Zinc Oxide, Titanium Dioxide and Avobenzone and appear to offer better protection than Oxybenzone (**Diffey**). In contrast, FDA, in 2016, outlined what type of data is required for approval of OTC actives (Table 1). In short, if FDA were to evaluate Oxybenzone and/or Octinoxate today based on the data submitted (by the personal care industry) in 1978 it would be highly unlikely that FDA would allow these ingredients to be used in any drug product(s) today.

**Table 1: FDA Data Standards for Drug Approval 1978 versus 2016 (US Dept HHS)**

<b>Oxybenzone Data from 1978</b>	<b>FDA Standards in 2016</b>
Animal/Human irritation and sensitization studies	Animal/Human irritation and sensitization studies
Animal/Human photo-safety studies	Animal/Human photo-safety studies
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Human Absorption Studies and Maximal Usage Trial
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Pediatric Considerations
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Nonclinical Safety Testing Carcinogenicity Studies: Dermal and Systemic
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity Studies
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Toxicokinetics
Post-marketing Data	Post-marketing Data
Effectiveness testing (SPF)	Effectiveness testing (SPF)
<b>Not Conducted</b>	Anticipated final formulation testing (Broad-Spectrum, Water-resistant ... etc.)



**4. The legislature further finds that although reasonable alternatives to oxybenzone currently exist for lower sun protection factor sunscreens, and a new generation of photostable, broad spectrum sunscreens offering both ultraviolet A and ultraviolet B protection is available outside the United States, the development of oxybenzone-free alternatives for higher sun protection factor products has been substantially delayed in the United States due to the United States Food and Drug Administration delay in approving new sunscreen ingredients.**

First, FDA, has delayed nothing, they would approve these actives upon the submission of data – by industry – as outlined above in table 1. Additionally, many of these so called “new generation” actives have the same issues as Oxybenzone and Octinoxate with respect to bioaccumulation in water and biomagnifications in aquatic life and should be tested to confirm that they are not toxic and have no endocrine disruptive potential which can harm humans.

Additionally, all bills being put forth in this session only ban Oxybenzone and Octinoxate ... it does not ban Aveobenzene, Homosalate, Octisalate, Octocrylene, Zinc Oxide, Titanium Dioxide or any other Category 1 sunscreen active “**approved by FDA**”. Regardless, not only are there dozens of Zinc Oxide and/or Titanium Dioxide active products readily available, but every company including J&J, L’Oreal, Hawaiian Tropics, Coppertone, Banana Boat, Neutrogena, Aveeno ... etc., have products currently available without Oxybenzone and Octinoxate in every marketplace, at every desired SPF number and at all price points ... Drug Store/Mass, Department Store/Prestige, Salon/Spa, Doctor/Medical, Internet/On-line - there is not a consumer locally or globally that would not be able to find a brand in any market segment selling sunscreens that does not have several alternatives to Oxybenzone and Octinoxate products ... below are only a few examples of those companies.

**Products with Organic and/or Inorganic FDA actives currently in the market**

All Good	Blue Lizard	Honest	Mama Rose
Ao Organics	<b>Burt’s Bees</b>	Jersey Shore	<b>Neutrogena</b>
Alba	Caribbean Solutions	Kabana Skincare	Raw Elements
Aveeno	Coola	Kidsport	Raw Love
Aubrey	<b>Coppertone</b>	Kuleana Sun	Sea & Summit
Babo Botanicals	Dolphin Organics	Little Hands Hawaii	Skinceuticals
Badger	Goddess Garden	<b>L’Oreal</b>	Sol Kine Maui
<b>Banana Boat</b>	Happy As Larry	Manda Naturals	Stream 2 Sea
Beach Bum	<b>Hawaiian Tropic</b>	Mama Kuleana	Tropical Sands

**5. Beginning January 1, 2023**

As stated in many testimonies and presentations, the increase of Oxybenzone and Octinoxate in Hawaiian waters has at least doubled between 2015 to 2017 ... continuing to hold off banning these chemicals for 5 more years will only lead to significant accumulation of these toxic chemicals creating more overall problems.

**References can be furnished upon request.**

Mahalo, Joe DiNardo (Concerned Hawaiian Tourist and Toxicologist/Formulator/Regulatory Specialist with 40+ Years Experience in the Personal Care Products Industry)

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:59:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:39:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the committee,

Please pass HB2723. Oxybenzone has been shown to harm coral reefs. We need to protect our coral reefs. Banning the use of oxybenzone would be a good first step in protecting our fragile reefs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching / Honolulu / makikirandy@yahoo.com

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 4:46:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 8:50:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Furst		Comments	No

Comments:

I am writing to express comments to HB2723, regarding regulation of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone. While I strongly support the restrictions in this bill, I do not think it implements them fast enough. There area already plenty of sunscreen products available that do not contain oxybenzone, so restricting sale of those products that do contain it would not impose a economic hardship on local retailers. More importantly, the continued loss of our finite coral reef resources would pose a severe threat to Hawaii's environment and tourism-based economy. For this reason, I urge you to modify this bill to restrict sale of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone by no later than 1/1/2020.

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 11:58:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rick Gaffney	Pacific Boats & Yachts LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I am strongly in favor of bills to ban the sale of products containing oxybenzone and octinoxate in Hawaii, to protect our coral reefs, this bill is flawed by disinformation and sets an unacceptably long timeline for the removal of these harmful chemicals from our waters.

There are several other bills being heard this session that seek to ban products containing these harmful chemicals from our waters by 2019.

Please support HB2264 instead

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 3:03:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this ban immediately. Scientists have testified in front of the Maui County Council this past fall about the reality of SPF sunscreens containing these 2 chemicals causing the destruction and death to our Reefs. Those meetings are available to review.

Please also ignore the reasons from the Chemical Cosmetic Lobbying Group hired attorneys.

If the Chemical Cosmetic Corporations can spend the money to hire expensive attorneys to defend their right to kill Reefs everywhere, they can surely reformulate their sunscreens to protect humans and our Reefs. These Sunscreens are big money makers for them. For them, it's all about profit, not about protecting our natural resources.

Pass this Bill,

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:38:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tamara Paltin		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The science on this is very clear oxybenzone and octinoxate are harmful to our reefs and they are not good for human usage either. There are cost effective alternatives. Please ban these harmful products, other countries have successfully done this for the good of their ocean environment. Here in Hawaii our ocean is the biggest driver of our economy and so we must do all that we can to protect it. Please send the message loud and clear to these product manufacturers we want to buy their products without these harmful substances inside.

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

870-0052



**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:24:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanie Yong		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB2723. The ocean is a precious natural resource for Hawaii, and Oxybenzone is a harmful substance that bleaches coral and disrupts the ecological balance of the ocean. Please help protect our beautiful sea creatures by banning Oxybenzone.

Mahalo,

Jeanie Yong

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:49:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Noelani Ahia		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Noelani Ahia and I support HB 2723.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Noelani Ahia

Wailuku, Maui

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:57:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill to protect our coral reefs.

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:57:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joan Gannon	West Hawaii CHC	Support	No

Comments:

I Joan Gannon, Chairperson of the Protect Marine Life Committee, for the Democratic Party on Hawaii Island support HB 2723.

I ask the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection to please pas HB 2723.

thank you Joan

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:54:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2723 which prohibits the sale of oxybenzone. The science is unequivocal -- oxybenzone harms coral. Our coral reefs are increasingly vulnerable to bleaching and sun screen products that use oxybenzone. In an age where climate change brings larger and more powerful storms to Hawaii, we need our coral reefs to be as strong as possible to protect our coastlines from powerful waves. I urge you to pass HB2723 to protect our coral reefs.

Charessa Fryc

Testimony for HB2723, In Relation to Oxybenzone

In Relation to Coral Reefs, Oxybenzone

Aloha Chair of the Energy and Environmental Committee Chris Lee, Vice Chair Nicole E. Loven, and Members of the committee. I am in strong Support of HB2723, which prohibits the sale of Oxybenzone sunscreen. Oxybenzone Sunscreen has harmful effects to our beautiful coral reefs, and sea life. We need to take responsibility and prohibit the sale of oxybenzone sunscreen so that we can protect our oceans, to preserve it for future generations. It is crucial that this bill is passed. Thank you for listening. I hope you will seriously consider passing this bill.

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:14:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucia You		Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:21:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dee Fulton	Mauna Mama Kona Coffee	Support	No

Comments:

There is no lack of research on the subject of oxybenzone and octinoxate. These hormone disruptors (aka endocrine disruptors) alter the function of reproduction in many species....coral animals, sea urchins, and humans. The impact to the reefs is lethal.

The impact to humans is still being measured. At this point, we know that oxybenzone is absorbed transdermally, it is passed to infants in breast milk, it lowers testosterone levels in developing boys, it interferes with sperm viability, and it is mutagenic.

Let's get this toxic chemical off the shelves in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Dee Fulton



**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:55:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Nandoskar		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass HB2723 banning the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone. Scientific studies have provided sufficient evidence that oxybenzone is harmful to ocean and marine life, especially coral and harmful to and potentially cancer causing in humans. We have a responsibility to malama aina and malama moana leaving our sacred natural wonders pristine and vibrant for future generations. Banning oxybenzone, a toxic chemical on many levels, is a step in the right direction.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2723**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:31:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De Austin		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Bowen and Committee members:

Thank you. Please prohibit the sale of sunscreens containing oxybenzone, unless the sunscreen is a prescription drug in the state of Hawaii.

Reefs must be protected. There are other reef-safe alternatives for sunscreen. Also, please note, the product which is named "Reef Safe" and is for sale in our Walmart on Maui actually contains these chemicals. There is no oversight or federal regulations regarding the term "reef safe" so any product can call itself that, and not be held accountable.

Do not be fooled by the names of products called 'reef safe'.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dezireen Austin