

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 450, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CORAL

House Bill 450, House Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii (UH) to conduct a study on the effects of sunscreen on Hawaii's coral reefs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The measure would provide an unspecified amount of funds to UH to study the effects of sunscreens on corals and the potential impacts of mitigation measures on persons who use sunscreens. The Department welcomes studies, including review of existing scientific literature as well as outreach studies, which would provide more information about and suggest strategies to mitigate the potential harmful effects of certain sunscreen compounds on coral health and reproduction. Clearly identifying these would help target any actions needed to protect our marine resources.

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

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 8:29 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB450 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB450

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 450 HD1 Relating to Coral
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 3:00PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 450 HD1 directing the University of Hawai'i to study and report on the effects of sunscreens on Hawai'i's coral reefs. Preliminary research indicates that there may be a connection between sunscreen containing oxybenzone and degraded reef health. Further research and analysis is warranted, and the precautionary principle suggests that we do what we can to minimize this potential threat.

However, while removing oxybenzone from Hawai'i's beaches and nearshore areas may help our reefs, it is only a first step. Support for this measure should not stop us from doing the hard work that is needed to protect our coral reefs and nearshore fisheries from the clear and present danger of additional chemicals, nutrients and sediment entering our nearshore waters, invasive algae smothering our reefs, and unsustainable fishing practices depleting our local fisheries. With the added threats from global climate change predicted to increase over the next 50 years, the need to protect our reefs and other aquatic resources has never been more urgent.

Hawai'i's nearshore waters are home to more than 7,000 forms of marine life, a quarter of them found nowhere else on Earth. Our vast coral reefs and entire near shore ecosystem are valuable assets that contribute culturally and economically to Hawai'i's future. Coral reef ecosystems create habitat for many fish species with important subsistence, recreational and commercial value; support tourism and recreational industries; and shelter coastlines from natural disturbances. Our life and lifestyle in Hawai'i depends upon a healthy and thriving marine environment.

While we appreciate the many bills this session proposing to regulate or study oxybenzone, **we also urge the Legislature to continue supporting efforts to address the full range of threats to our reefs, fisheries and other marine resources. These actions include:**

- **Sufficient funding and personnel for the Department of Land and Natural Resources** to:
 - Implement existing and develop additional marine management rules to protect and restore our coastal fisheries;
 - Build compliance with and enforcement of existing marine management rules and laws;
 - Collaboratively develop a strategic plan to address coral bleaching and guide management decisions;
 - Obtain the information needed to continue adaptively managing coastal resources based on the best available science and traditional knowledge; and
 - Build on its on-the-ground and in-water management work with partners to care for coastal and marine resources.
- **Supporting the efforts of coastal communities around the islands that are working to co-manage their resources in partnership with the DLNR.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: louyounghawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB450 on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM*

HB450

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lou Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: jeanyounghawaii@gmail.com
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HB450

Submitted on: 2/26/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: FINTestimony
Cc: jshon1987@gmail.com
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HB450

Submitted on: 2/25/2017

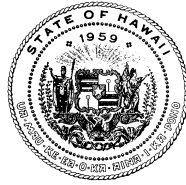
Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H. B. 450, HD1
RELATING TO CORAL**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 28, 2017
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Room Number: 308

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Money shall be appropriated to the University of Hawaii
- 2 **Department Testimony:** H. B.450, HD1 asks the University of Hawaii to conduct a study of
- 3 the environmental effects of sunscreen use on the coral reefs. We support this initiative as long
- 4 as it does not replace priorities requested in the Executive Budget. We defer to the University of
- 5 Hawaii about conducting such a study.
- 6 Research by local and national coral experts has shown that levels of oxybenzone from
- 7 sunscreens in the marine environment are high enough to pose deleterious effects on coral.
- 8 Additionally, sunscreens containing zinc oxide and titanium dioxide nanoparticles wash off skin
- 9 into the aquatic environment with unknown effects to the tropical marine ecosystem.
- 10 We support local research on the impact of chemicals in sunscreen on the coral reefs.
- 11 Additionally, DOH supports development of effective public education and outreach efforts to
- 12 inform Hawaii beachgoers about steps that they can take to reduce the use of sunscreen
- 13 containing oxybenzone while enjoying our beaches in Hawaii.
- 14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.
- 15 **Offered Amendments:** None.