

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 Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
TOURISM**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018
8:55 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 114/HOUSE RESOLUTION 102
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**

House Concurrent Resolution 114/House Resolution 102 requests the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) 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. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department conducts outreach efforts to help the public understand the issues regarding using oxybenzone and similar chemicals in the ocean so they can be better informed and make better choices regarding sun protection. These efforts include information on the Department's Division of Aquatic Resources website, focused one-on-one outreach and distribution of oxybenzone-free sunscreen samples at public events, outreach at the 'Āhihi-Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve, news releases, videos, interaction with partner organizations, and meetings with boat tour operators and vendors who sell sunscreen to spread the word. A campaign by HTA to educate visitors about oxybenzone use would greatly expand the reach of this message.

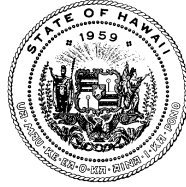
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

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 HCR 114 and HR 102
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**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD H.K. ONISHI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Hearing Date: March 20, 2018
Time: 8:55 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:** The Department supports the intent of these resolutions and defers to
- 4 the Hawaii Tourism Authority to determine the resource needs and feasibility of establishing a
- 5 public education campaign to inform visitors about actions they can take to protect Hawaii's
- 6 coral reefs, while enjoying our beaches and staying safe from the sun's harmful rays.
- 7 The Department encourages public education efforts that offer simple, voluntary measures like
- 8 applying water resistant, oxybenzone-free sunscreens, mineral sunblocks and/or wearing
- 9 protective clothing while at the beach to protect both our precious coral reefs and our health.
- 10
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourismauthority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

LATE

Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
HCR114/HR102
**Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to Establish a Campaign to Educate Visitors
about the Harmful Effects of Oxybenzone Sunscreen on Coral Reefs**
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House Committee on Tourism
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
8:55 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Chairs Lee and Onishi, Vice-Chairs Lowen and Fukumoto and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **comments on HCR114/HR102**, which seeks a resolution by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that HTA is requested to establish a campaign to educate visitors to the State about the harmful effects of oxybenzone sunscreen on coral reefs, encourage visitors to the State to refrain from using oxybenzone sunscreens and submit a report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019 on these efforts.

HTA agrees that visitors should be educated on the harmful effects of sunscreen containing oxybenzone and the availability of alternative forms of sun protection. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has an ongoing visitor education campaign entitled "Protect Yourself, Protect the Reef" that seeks to educate our guests on these important topics. HTA proposes that HCR114/HR102 be amended to request that HTA support the existing campaign, in order to broaden its reach in the visitor industry, instead of establishing a new campaign.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:41:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:49:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Committee on Tourism
Committee on Finance

From: Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Inc.

Re: **HCR 114/ HR 102** " 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 "

Hearing date and time: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 8:55 am, Conference Room 325

In Napili Bay and Beach Foundation's continued efforts to protect and improve the health of our beach and bay, we have learned of the deleterious effects of some sunscreen ingredients on reef life, particularly the ingredient oxybenzone and its derivatives. At Napili, our heightened awareness of the toxic effects of oxybenzone over the past two years, has led to educational outreach at resorts on the bay, and to removal of oxybenzone-containing sunscreens/ skin creams from the shelves of our beach activity stores and Napili's retail gift shop.

I'm writing on behalf of Napili's beach resorts today, to support your efforts to educate tourists arriving in Hawaii regarding the negative impact of using oxybenzone (and/or octinoxate) sunscreens on the health of Hawaii's reefs, which have been/are being endangered by these products as well as by land-based pollutants and warming ocean waters.

I want to make you aware of an excellent short (11 minute) film by Hawaiian filmmaker, Malina Fagan, "The Coverup Film", which can be accessed on the Reefs At Risk website, <http://www.thecoverupfilm.com/reefs-at-risk>.

We propose here that Hawaii Tourism Association work with Malina Fagan to purchase rights, lightly edit as needed, and then show her film on every arriving flight and cruise ship. We have seen wonderful tourism info short subjects aired as our flights approach Maui, and think the beauty and information in "THE COVERUP FILM" will help all arriving guests know about dangers of using these products on the health of coral reefs in Hawaii.

Hawaii's reefs are under seige, and we encourage you to take a leadership stand to protect our coastal waters and coral reefs by passing this resolution to educate ALL incoming tourists to the State of Hawaii, thus enabling them to take personal action to help protect Hawaiian reef life.

Sincerely,



Pat B. Lindquist, President , Napili Bay and Beach Foundation



PO Box 10823
Lahaina, HI 96761

Pat B. Lindquist, President
Norm Runyan, Director

Gregg Nelson, Vice-President
Jamie Lung-Ka'eo, Director

Nane Aluli, Secretary
Dana Reed, Director

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:17:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

We support HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of toxic sunscreen chemicals like Oxybenzone. We agree there are better sunscreen options utilizing non-nano minerals. This education will be more effective if accompanied by a state-wide ban. Hawaii will be more sustainable as a tourism destination if we protect our natural resources. We suggest Hawaii Tourism Authority consult with activist groups like Ban Toxic Sunscreens who have been working for years in Hawaii to educate locals and tourists about the negative impacts of these chemicals and help them make better choices. Mahalo.

www.WeAreOne.cc

FRIENDS OF HANAUMA BAY

**To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair**

**House Committee on Tourism
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair
Representative Beth Fukumoto, Vice-Chair**

**House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair**

Re: HCR114 and HR102

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

Hearing: Tuesday, 20 March 2018, 8:55 am, Room 325

Position: STRONG SUPPORT with amendment to include octinoxate in the campaign

The Friends of Hanama Bay strongly supports HCR114 and HR102 requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority to establish a campaign to educate visitors to the State about the harmful effects of sunscreen containing oxybenzone on coral reefs, and to encourage visitors to the State to refrain from using sunscreen with oxybenzone. We request that the Resolutions be amended by adding “octinoxate “ to this vital education campaign since both of these chemicals have been scientifically demonstrated over the last 20 years to be toxic to coral reefs. These two ingredients in chemical sunscreens also have scientifically proven linkages to serious human health conditions, so it is clearly imperative to mitigate their harmful presence in our environment.

It is estimated that over 500 tons of sunscreen pollute the waters surrounding Hawaii. With the 2,600 swimmers per day that visit Hanauma Bay, it is estimated that over 150,000 pounds of sunscreen pollute Hanauma’s waters, of which is 6,800 pounds of oxybenzone/octinoxate a year. A recent water sampling study of Hanauma Bay measured levels of oxybenzone 450 times that considered safe for corals. Hanauma Bay is Hawaii’s first Marine Life Conservation District, a part of the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and one of Hawaii’s 12 Class AA

marine embayments under the Federal Clean Water Act. We can — and should — do better to protect and preserve Hawaii’s fragile and irreplaceable marine ecosystems like Hanauma Bay.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority’s mission includes providing an exceptional visitors experience while valuing and perpetuating Hawaii’s natural and cultural resources and honoring its people and heritage. Its Natural Resources Program is ideally suited to partner with leading coral reef biologists, ecotoxicologists, businesses, organizations and residents of Hawaii to bring its formidable educating and marketing genius to bear to mitigate this clear and present danger to our coral reefs.

Further, the International Coral Reef Initiative declared 2018 as the third International Year of the Reef, encouraging concerned countries, organizations and citizens to:

- strengthen awareness globally about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- promote partnerships between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society on the management of coral reefs;
- identify and implement effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency and sustainable use of these ecosystems and promoting best practices; and
- share information on best practices in relation to sustainable coral reef management.

Since the State of Hawaii led the world by earning the honor of hosting the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) conference in 2016 - the first time this prestigious international conference has ever been held in the United States - we urge Hawaii to continue leading the effort to protect and preserve coral reefs by resolving that the Hawaii Tourism Authority start educating visitors on the reef-toxic danger of sunscreen containing oxybenzone and/or octinoxate.

Please amend the Resolutions to add “octinoxate” to this vital education campaign in addition to “oxybenzone”.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of these important resolutions.

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:55:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tatyana Cerullo	Kokua Sun Care	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee on Tourism:

We **strongly support** HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of toxic sunscreen chemicals like oxybenzone, octinoxate, avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, exylhexyl methoxycinnamate, per DLNR's and many other experts' recommendation. We should not be complacent with educating only about oxybenzone. Toxic sunscreen is the "new" smoking but worse. When used they adversely affect others who choose not to use them and they contaminate and destroy our marine environment. Most people, particularly tourists, are simply ignorant of the affects of toxic sunscreen on themselves and our precious coral reefs. Tourtists do not realize when they are spraying or slathering on toxic chemicals that spread around by wind and/or water into people's lungs and into our coral ecosystems, which is part of the beauty of Hawaii that they have come to enjoy. There are many alternatives to toxic sunscreens that are natural and contain non-nano zinc oxide as the only active ingredient, such as KÅ• kua Sun Care Hawaiian Natural Zinc Sunscreen, SPF 50 / 80 minutes water resistant with 7 Hawaii-grown antioxidant ingredients, which provides high performance broad spectrum protection. If people knew the effects of toxic sunscreen and that there were effective natural zinc oxide alternatives, it would strongly reinforce a state-wide ban. Hawaii will be more sustainable as a tourism destination if we protect our natural resources. We suggest Hawaii Tourism Authority consult with activist groups like Ban Toxic Sunscreens who have been working for years in Hawaii to educate locals and tourists about the negative impacts of these chemicals and help them make better choices. Mahalo for your consideration.

Tatyana Cerullo

KÅ• kua Sun Care

Director

[HCR 114 / HR 102](#) / [Status / Status](#) REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE VISITORS TO THE STATE ABOUT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF OXYBENZONE EEP/TOU, FIN

SUNSCREEN ON CORAL REEFS AND TO
ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO THE STATE TO
REFRAIN FROM USING OXYBENZONE
SUNSCREENS.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

TIME:

8:55 a.m.

Conference Room 325

PLACE:

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street



TO: Honorable Chairs Lee and Onishi, Vice Chairs Lowen and Fukumoto, and Energy and Environmental Protection, and Tourism Committee Members, 3-20-18, 8:55 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, State Affairs, Humane Society of the United States, kdane@humanesociety.org, Tel: 301-312-1489; and Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D., Vice President, Wildlife, Humane Society International, ttelecky@hsi.org, Tel: 301.258.1430

RE: SUPPORT for HCR 114 / HR 102, Relating to Sunscreen; Oxybenzone; Hawaii Tourism Authority

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI), support HCR 114 / HR 102 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. We thank the Committees for addressing this important matter that affects Hawaii's nearshore coral reefs.

Numerous studies have shown that oxybenzone in the marine environment can be harmful to coral reefs and marine life (Kim et al. 2014; Kim & Choi 2014; Tsui et al. 2014; Downs et al. 2015). These studies clearly indicate that oxybenzone poses a risk to fishes, through endocrine disruption and reproduction performance, for example, and to hard corals through bleaching. These threats are heightened in marine recreational areas frequented by beach goers, swimmers, snorkelers and divers whose sunscreen washes off when they enter the water. Worldwide, it is estimated that 90% of snorkeling or diving tourists are concentrated on 10% of the reefs (US National Park Service). Hawaii's Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) have an abundance of fishes compared to the majority of the state's reefs which are severely depleted. This abundance of wildlife is a major draw to tourists and, Hawaii's most beautiful and popular reefs are likely exposed to the most sunscreen pollution.

It has been estimated that 4,000 – 14,000 tons of sunscreen enters coral reef areas around the world annually (U.S. National Park Service, Downs et al. 2015). Surveys around Hawaii's coral reefs found oxybenzone levels at concentrations 12 times higher than the level at which it impacts juvenile coral (Downs et al. 2015).

The unprecedented coral bleaching events of 2014 and 2015 had devastating effects on Hawaii's corals. A 2016 report by The Nature Conservancy found that 32 – 90% of bleached coral colonies died in some West Hawaii areas. New research shows that by mid-century, coral reefs will annually experience the heat stress that causes bleaching, and the authors conclude that the future conditions of reefs depends on both the reduction of global emissions and our capacity to build resilience to bleaching through management of local stressors (Hughes et al. 2018). Though sunscreen toxins, such as oxybenzone and octinoxate, may be just one of many stressors impacting Hawaii's coral reefs, the inevitability of future ocean warming events and subsequent coral bleaching makes it imperative to reduce the stressors to corals and increase their potential to recover and survive.

We urge the Committee to pass HCR 114 / HR 102 which will help reduce SPF sunscreen pollution and harm to Hawaii's coral reefs and wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



March 19, 2018

To whom it may concern,

As concerned citizens and makers of natural mineral sunscreen, we strongly support HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority to establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of sunscreen chemicals like oxybenzone and octinoxate. There are better sunscreen options readily available that use non-nano minerals for sun protection instead of the chemicals in question that have been linked to the destruction of coral reefs.

This education will be much more effective if accompanied by a state-wide ban; however, HCR114 also encourages visitors to avoid using oxybenzone-containing sunscreens, even if the ban is not in place. This will further protect the reefs, separate from the proposed ban, and is key to helping make Hawaii more sustainable as a tourism destination. We suggest Hawaii Tourism Authority consult with activist groups like Ban Toxic Sunscreens and others who have been working for years in Hawaii to educate locals and tourists about the negative impact of these chemicals and help them make better choices.

We've been making reef-safe, natural mineral sunscreen for 13 years. We have always used natural minerals for sun protection instead of chemicals like oxybenzone and octinoxate. Because alternatives to chemical sunscreens are readily available to keep tourists safe from burns and help protect them from skin cancer, there is no need to continue to put the reefs at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for allowing us to testify on this critical issue.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nova Paul".

Nova Covington, Co-Founder and CEO
Paul Halter, Co-founder and CFO
Goddess Garden Organics

Ban Toxic Sunscreens

protect people • corals • marine life

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Rep Chris Lee, Chair; Rep Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair

To: Committee on Tourism

Rep Richard HK Onishi, Chair; Rep Beth Fukumoto, Vice Chair

Hearing: Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 8:55am, Room 325

We support HCR114 / HR102 requesting Hawai'i Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the negative impacts (on people, marine life, corals) of toxic sunscreen chemicals including Oxybenzone. We agree there are more safe, efficient sunscreen options utilizing non-nano minerals like Zinc Oxide in a natural base. Hawai'i Tourism has increased every year and with that are added impacts and responsibilities. We should increase, at a comparable rate, efforts to protect our environment and resources from the impact. Through HTA's channels more visitors can be reached, before they make the mistake of purchasing sunscreens that hurt the very corals and sea life they came to enjoy. The majority of tourists we've spoken with claim 1) they didn't know about the dangers of sunscreens 2) they would happily purchase reef safe sunscreens to protect Hawai'i 3) they already made their purchase.... People need to be educated from the time they are planning their trip to the before they exit the aircraft. It is estimated at least 60% of people purchase their sunscreen in Hawai'i. The Hawaii Tourism industry in general has been very receptive and responsive about making the switch. Protecting Hawai'i as an eco-tourism destination is more sustainable for people, the environment, businesses and the tourism industry. This education of course would be most efficient accompanied by a state-wide ban. Hopefully the can consult with groups like BTS already working for years to educate locals and tourists on this matter. Mahalo.

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:49:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe DiNardo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting the education of tourists about the sunscreen active Oxybenzone. It is critical that everyone understand that the Hawaiian environment needs to be protected from toxic chemicals that harm aquatic life. As you may be aware, there are approximately 150 scientific peer-review papers that have been published (I can send the bibliography if desired) demonstrating a variety of toxic effects this chemical exerts on both aquatic and human life. Additionally, levels of this chemical in local waters has increased between 2 to 3.5 times, depending on the location, between 2015 and 2017 - and will continue to increase until most aquatic life is gone if nothing is done ... time is of the essence!

If I maybe so bold as to ask that you also include the sunscreen chemical called Octinoxate. There are approximately 100 scientific peer-review papers that have been published (again, I can send the bibliography if desired) which also demonstrates similar toxic effects as Oxybenzone to both aquatic and human life.

It is critical that Hawaii protect it's waters in order to preserve the incredible beauty and diversity of it's wildlife and education is one of several ways of doing so. Again, thank you for caring and protecting Hawaii's resources as well as sharing them with the world!

Mahalo, Joe DiNardo Hawaiian Tourist and Toxicologist

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 10:39:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Joint Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Tourism,
I am testifying in support of HCR114/HR102.

Once upon a time, not long ago, parents and their children wore hats and long-sleeved shirts when going to the beach along with their swimsuits as protection from the sun. Since that time, sunscreen has become ubiquitous in our sun-loving state as protection.

Unfortunately, it is now a fact that oxybenzone and other chemicals in sunscreen may provide some protection for people, but are deadly to "the rainforests of the ocean", coral reefs, an ecosystem critical to the health and well-being of the oceans and all life on this planet, humans included.

During a recent flight returning to Hawai'i from the mainland, the flight attendant came over the public address system and said, "Be sure to use lots of sunscreen for your protection". There was no mention of the fact that certain sunscreens contain chemical toxic to coral reefs, such as oxybenzone.

Without doubt, visitors to and residents of the state of Hawai'i would avoid using sunscreens containing oxybenzone if they knew the very product they were using for protection was actually harming the wonderous underwater environment they were enjoying at that very moment.

Education and awareness are the keys to cultural and societal change.

Please vote in support of HCR114/HR102 to help everyone to be able to kokua our precious coral reefs.

Mahalo,

Charles Flaehrty

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:43:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable committee members and chair:

Eco-tourism has been a popular topic for many years now. This bill continues the good brought by raising awareness levels of the human impact on our environment, and eventually our own lives.

It makes sense that the Hawaii Tourism board, which reportedly wants to increase tourism business to Hawaii, would be vested in educating visitors about how to preserve the beauty and nature that Hawaii offers to visitors. We wouldn't have visitors or tourism dollars if people stopped coming because our reefs are dead, our tropical forests are dry and our waterfalls and springs, oceans and rivers are polluted. They would simple stop coming. Or they might go to Mexico, which already has laws in place to protect their oceans and reefs.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

D Austin

Resident, educator, parent, voter

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:22:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrienne Kimber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of toxic sunscreen chemicals like Oxybenzone. I agree there are better sunscreen options utilizing non-nano minerals. This education will be more effective if accompanied by a state-wide ban. Hawaii will be more sustainable as a tourism destination if we protect our natural resources. We suggest Hawaii Tourism Authority consult with activist groups like Ban Toxic Sunscreens who have been working for years in Hawaii to educate locals and tourists about the negative impacts of these chemicals and help them make better choices. Mahalo.

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 4:14:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Rittenberry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering my testimony today. I am a senior in the Sustainable Science Management program at the University of Hawaii Maui College and I believe in a sustainable Hawaii. I support HCR114, which requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of the toxic sunscreen chemical Oxybenzone. It would be sensible to add Octinoxate to the education curriculum in order to match the House version of the “Oxybenzone Bill” SB2571, which includes Octinoxate as a target. This education will be more effective if accompanied by a state-wide ban, and will be vital if SB2571 is passed. Hawaii can only be sustainable as a tourism destination if we protect our natural resources. It would be highly beneficial for Hawaii Tourism Authority to consult with groups or individuals who have been educating residents and tourists of Hawaii on this subject for years, such as Student Ohana for Sustainability, Ban Toxic Sunscreens, Rob Parsons, Jeff Bagshaw, and Sierra Club. Without our natural resources, we have nothing.

Mahalo for your consideration

Alicia Rittenberry

ar31@hawaii.edu

808-298-9337

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 4:18:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: EEP and TOU Committees meeting on 3/20/18 at 8:55am in room 325

Re: HCR 114 please pass this bill. It is important for us to educate the public and particularly our visitors to be mindful of caring for our fragile reefs. Being careful not to use sunscreen with oxybenzone will help in our effort to protect the coral reef. Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Gannon resident, voter and snorkeler

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 5:18:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sylvia litchfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of toxic sunscreen chemicals like Oxybenzone.

If you have not seen it already, please enjoy this 11-minute, award-winning documentary video. It will help you understand the reasons why these extra-potent chemicals are so dangerous.

("Reefs at Risk" film is available to the public on Youtube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28qWIPeOkvl&t=8s>

This is a win/win for our economy - we preserve the coral reefs that matter most to us: those which attract tourists. Even the hotels and snorkel tour boats are getting on board with educating tourists, because they know that where the reef dies back, so does their business. Also, some of the best non-toxic sunscreens available are now made in Hawai'i - we do not produce sunscreens with oxybenone here, so this measure will only help our local economy.

I have studied this issue for many years and work with experts in the field. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Litchfield

415 Dairy Rd. Suite # E 414, Kahului, HI 96732

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 6:24:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael ko	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha

Please consider this measure.

On behalf of the health and life of our coral and our bodies, especially our keiki, we support this bill and hope you take it into consideration as well. There have been more than enough studies done. Bottom line is Hawaii depends on tourism and if we continue to not malama our reef and ecosystem, we feel drastic things will change. Tourist come here to snorkel and if there are dying coral with no fish, no color and no life, they will chose to go elsewhere.

What about our keiki. We continue to lather them with toxic chemicals. Don't you think we should end this already?

Me and my family have been making a reef safe and human safe sunscreen here in Hawaii for 7 years now, and have seen a huge change. People are actually reading ingredients and trying to find a better, cleaner product. Well guess what, they came to the right place. There are a handful of companies here in Hawaii that have been doing our best to educate, spread awareness and provide something better not only for Hawaii's people, but for Hawaii's biggest resource, our ocean. Our ocean provides us with so much. Businesses make a living, puts food on our tables, provides healing, I can go on and on. Coming form a local family, please let this happen for Hawaii. Let's give back to what has given us and our ancestors for generations.

Mahalo.

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:34:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul S Montague	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We support HCR114 that requests Hawaii Tourism Authority establish a campaign to educate tourists about the harmful effects of toxic sunscreen chemicals like Oxybenzone. We agree there are better sunscreen options utilizing non-nano minerals. This education will be more effective if accompanied by a state-wide ban. Hawaii will be more sustainable as a tourism destination if we protect our natural resources. We suggest Hawaii Tourism Authority consult with activist groups like Ban Toxic Sunscreens who have been working for years in Hawaii to educate locals and tourists about the negative impacts of these chemicals and help them make better choices. Mahalo.

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 7:39:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Tourists use a lot of reef-harming sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate. The tourism industry stands to lose if our precious coral reefs are harmed by toxic sunscreens. Please pass this resolution to require the tourism industry to do its part to end use of these toxic sunscreens. Mahalo!

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:09:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Parish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Nui,

I am testifying in support of HCR114/HR102.

Sunscreen is used everywhere in our state. It is undeniably a fact that oxybenzone and other chemicals in sunscreen are deadly to coral reefs, an ecosystem critical to the health and well-being of the oceans and all life on this planet, humans included.

If visitors to and residents of the state of Hawai'i were educated about this serious threat and ongoing degradation their sunscreen is causing coral reefs, they would likely avoid using these products.

Education and awareness are the keys to making a difference on this very important issue affecting our precious natural resources.

Please vote in support of HCR114/HR102.

Mahalo,
Maya Parish

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:59:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patrick coan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am probably the most vocal voice on the North Shore of Kaua'i opposing the use of chemical sunscreens. Being in the position of working full time at the most prominent surf shop - Hanalei Surf, and daily educating dozens of people on the harm that these products do, as well as teaching surf & stand up paddleboard lessons as my free time, people/tourists are very receptive & open to educating themselves on these topics. Many visitors are already aware or "have heard something about it". Making this official, and using our government to help ease the burden of concerned citizens that are carrying most of the weight education concerning this matter.

also, the products that are safe to use - reef safe, are selling like hot cakes. There is no lack of alternate safe products to use.

Aloha,

My name is Luka Wohl, and I am a sophomore at Kealakehe High School on the West side of the Big Island. As a part of my Global Action Project of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council's Global Leadership Program, I am currently working on a project about informing the public about the harms of oxybenzone in sunscreen. Upon approval by the Department of Transportation, my goal is to inform the public by placing a banner in the Kona Int'l Airport, emphasizing the harms of oxybenzone. Oxybenzone is a toxic chemical, for both coral reefs and humans alike, and people should be aware of these damaging effects for themselves and the reefs, before applying it to their body. Feel free to contact me on my cell: (808) 756-0724, and my email: luka.wo20@gmail.com.

Below is my current draft of the banner.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Luka Wohl

PROTECT YOUR SKIN, AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

Your sunscreen is toxic to you and Hawai'i's coral reefs.

WHAT IS OXYBENZONE?
Oxybenzone is a commercially-produced chemical used in sunscreens, other personal care products, and used in some plastics.

IS OXYBENZONE BAD FOR ME?
Studies suggest that Oxybenzone can be absorbed into the skin, in turn, the chemical entering your bloodstream.

WHAT IS THE RELATION WITH MY OXYBENZONE SUNSCREEN AND CORAL REEFS?
When your sunscreen eventually wears off into the water, the oxybenzone bleaches the coral, making the reef inhabitable to millions of marine species.

WHAT CAN I DO?
Use the chart to the right to determine which sunscreen is safe to apply on your skin. Locate the chemicals in the "Active ingredients" section of the Drug Facts label on the sunscreen. [pictured below]



YOU CAN **SAVE THE REEFS**
FROM BLEACHING

say **YES** to minerals

say **NO** to chemicals

TITANIUM DIOXIDE

ZINC OXIDE

OCTOCRYLENE

HOMOSALATE

OCTINOXATE

OXYBENZONE

IN YOUR **SUNSCREEN!**



Mālama i ke kai,
a mālama ke kai iā 'oe!

Care for the ocean and the
ocean will care for you!

Created by Luka Wohl of Kealakehe High School with help of local community and the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC).

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:26:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:07:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HCR-114

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:59:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 8:55:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan chouljian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If tourists knew the harmful effects of chemical sunscreens they would surely choose a safer product. Aqua Aston Hotels is already doing this and educating their clientele. So its works. Please let Hawaii take on this leadership role and educate tourists visiting out beautiful island.