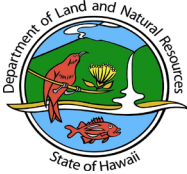


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, April 1, 2022
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 173/SENATE RESOLUTION 166
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED SUNSCREEN
DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 173/Senate Resolution 166 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to construct and operate non-chemical, mineral based sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches. **The Department opposes these measures.**

The Department would incur significant expenses to construct, operate and maintain the sunscreen dispensers, without any funding support. Although the resolution contemplates using commercial marine license fees and fines collected from violations of permits to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes to fund this endeavor, it would still detrimentally impact the Department as those funds are already used to supported other programs. Furthermore, the resolution is vague and ambiguous as it lacks a definition for "state beaches". According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there is approximately 750 miles of coastline in the state. Even if the sunscreen dispensers were limited to sandy shoreline areas statewide, it would still constitute a large and expansive area requiring significant monetary and personnel resources.

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

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 7:54:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Tsuji	Testifying for DLNR	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 7:55:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Moore	Testifying for DLNR	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 5:23:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and

The Honorable Senators Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

RE: Hearing SCR173/SR166 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES.

Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:00 pm

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR173!

Corals and other marine wildlife are severely stressed because oceans are becoming warmer and more acidic, and by sediments, nutrient pollution, and over-fishing. In addition, **several chemical-based sunscreens are detrimental to the health of Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.** The National Ocean Service has found that the chemicals in both lotion and aerosol sunscreens can impair the growth of plants, stunt and deform animals, and contribute to the bleaching of coral. Act 104, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018 (Act 104), banned the sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the State of any sunscreen that contains oxybenzone or octinoxate, or both, without a medically-licensed prescription. Following the enactment of Act 104, there have been additional efforts to expand the ban to include more chemicals, such as avobenzone and octocrylene, that negatively impact Hawai'i's fragile coral reefs.

Opponents have expressed concerns with limited stock of approved sunscreens available across the State for consumers, which has halted efforts to further protect Hawai'i's coral reefs.

Several alternative mineral-based sunscreens exist that protect consumers from skin cancer and do not harm the reef ecosystems.

To provide greater accessibility of approved sunscreens for park users, the first dispenser of mineral-based sunscreen in a Hawai'i state park was established in November 2021 at the Waialae section of Hāpuna Beach State Recreation Area on the west coast of Hawai'i Island;

Under this Senate Concurrent Resolution 173 and Senate Resolution 168, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to expand the installation of mineral-based sunscreen dispensers to all state beaches to decrease the amount of chemicals impacting Hawai'i's reef ecosystems. **The deployment of sunscreen dispensers at state beaches will ease the burden of securing reef-safe sunscreens for use by residents and visitors alike, as well as further protect Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.**

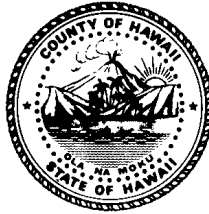
The Department of Land and Natural Resources is also requested to utilize funds obtained through commercial marine license fees and fines collected from violations of permits to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes to fund the installation of mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches. The Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition supports this funding proposal to the extent the law permits it.

Please pass this resolution to protect Hawaii's reefs from harmful chemical sunscreens by having DLNR install mineral-based sunscreens at all State beaches!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



Office: (808) 323-4280
Email: holeka.inaba@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

March 29, 2022

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee On Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Re: **Support** for SCR173 & SR166 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES.

Videoconference Hearing: Friday, April 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the above referenced Committee,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I would like to express support for the above referenced resolutions, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

We support these resolutions that request the Department of Land and Natural Resources "DLNR" to expand the installation of mineral-based sunscreen dispensers to all state beaches in order to decrease the amount of chemicals impacting Hawai'i's reef ecosystems. DLNR would also be requested to utilize funds obtained through commercial marine license fees and fines collected from permit violations to take aquatic life for aquarium purposes to fund these dispenser installations.

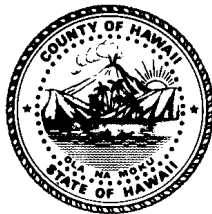
Installing reef-safe sunscreen dispensers at beaches is a long overdue and acceptable remedy that is sure to help protect Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.

Thank you for considering our support for SCR173 and SR166.

Sincerely,

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

March 29, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SCR173, RELATING TO URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED
SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Water and Land
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 1:00pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR173. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The National Ocean Service finds that the chemicals in both lotion and aerosol sunscreens can impair the growth of plants, stunt and deform animals, and contribute to the bleaching of coral. The use of chemical-based sunscreen is detrimental to the health of Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.

Alternative mineral-based sunscreen exists that protects consumers from skin cancer and does not harm the reef ecosystems, but there are concerns with the limited stock of approved sunscreens available across the State for consumers. This has hindered efforts to further protect Hawai'i's coral reefs.

The deployment of sunscreen dispensers at state beaches will ease the burden of securing reef-safe sunscreens for use by residents and visitors alike, as well as further protect Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and Committee on Water and Land to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

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Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 31, 2022

TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

FROM: Kelly Takaya King, Maui County Councilmember

HEARING: April 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 224 &
Videoconference

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 173/SR 166 URGING THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED
SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES**

Dear Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

As the Chair of the Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee of the Maui County Council, I strongly support adoption of SCR 173/SR 166 which will urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to construct and operate non-chemical, mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all Hawai'i State beaches. Maui County recently enacted Ordinance No. 5306, Bill 135 (2021), effective October 1, 2022 to prohibit the use, sale and distribution of non-mineral based sunscreens in Maui County to protect the coral reefs and their inhabitants, based on the science which indicates that chemical sunscreens are harmful to our marine environment.

On February 14, 2022, I was delighted to attend the unveiling of the first mineral-based sunscreen dispenser in Maui County, at 'Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve, a precious marine preserve in South Maui. The addition of the dispenser there and at other locations is a wonderful way to educate the public and enable them to easily contribute to the protection of the coral reef environment. The first dispensers on Maui and the initial supplies of sunscreen

March 31, 2022

Page 2

have been donated, but I foresee and support the eventual installation of paid dispensers.

The proposed resolution is also supported by the Edinburgh Declaration, (signed at COP26 by BLNR Chair Suzanne Case for the State of Hawaii and myself for the County of Maui), an international commitment to act on the need for transformative change to avoid negative impacts to biodiversity and to look to nature-based solutions. We must take whatever steps we can to support and protect the vulnerable, critically important jewels that are our coral reefs.

Please recommend adoption of SCR 173/SR 166.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly T. King".

Kelly Takaya King, Maui County Councilmember
Chair, Climate Action, Resilience and Environment Committee



SCR 173, SR 166 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES.

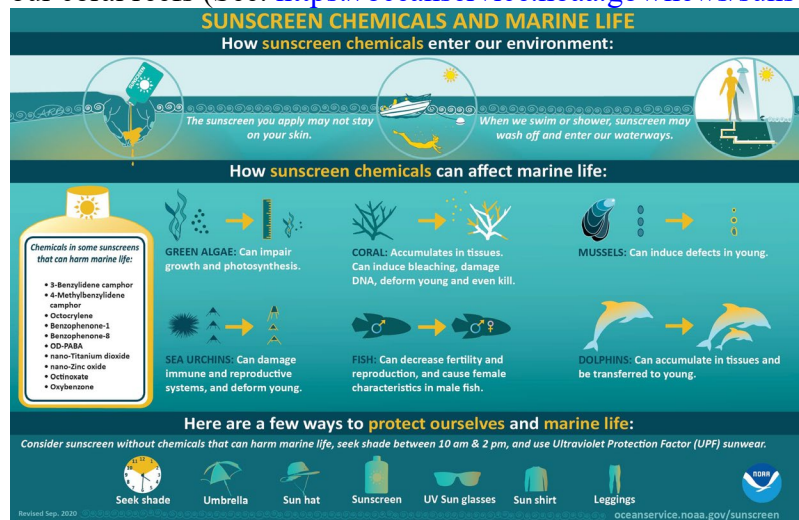
Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by videoconference

Position: Strong Support for SCR 173, SR 166

Aloha Honorable Senator Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee
 Aloha Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye Chair and The Honorable Senator Gilbert Keith Agaran Vice-Chair and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee

Coral reefs are intrinsic to Hawaiian culture and provide critical natural protection against coastal erosion and sea-level rise. Further, our coral reefs underpin our vibrant tourism industry, Hawai'i's primary and vital economic engine. Currently, these reefs we depend on are at risk. Where people use marine environments as recreational resources, there is sunscreen pollution. Swimmers put on sunscreen products before they get into the water and over an hour much of that sunscreen will slough off, potentially contaminating the surrounding water. This is a grave concern because it has been reported in the scientific literature that specific petrochemicals in sunscreen can have irreversibly detrimental effects on marine life, including changes in fish behavior, damage to coral DNA and larvae, and the health of algae, fish, shellfish, urchins, and marine mammals.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has already recognized this existential threat to our coral reefs (See: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/sunscreen-corals.html>)



On September 24, 2021, the FDA issued a proposed order concerning nonprescription sunscreen drug products. In the proposed order, two mineral products zinc oxide and titanium dioxide are

deemed generally recognized as safe and effective (GRASE), and fourteen products are deemed NOT GRASE. Of the fourteen products, twelve products do not currently contain sufficient data to support positive GRASE classification. The twelve products that require additional data are avobenzone, cinoxate, dioxybenzone, ensulizole, homosalate, meradimate, octinoxate, octisalate, octocrylene, oxybenzone, padimate O, and sulisobenzene.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Center for Disease Control, American Cancer Society, World Health Organization, as well as hundreds of scientists and dermatologists, have reported that certain chemical sunscreens are harmful to many forms of life and have not been shown to decrease skin cancer. To protect from the sun and reduce the impact on coral reefs they suggest that people avoid the mid-day sun, wear a protective hat and clothing, and apply sunscreen with only zinc oxide or titanium dioxide as the main ingredient. This is a much better course for public health and the environment than using a petrochemical sunscreen that may cause harm to the coral reefs and other marine life.

We ask for your **strong support for SCR 173, SR 166** urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources to construct and operate non-chemical, mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches.

Restricting the use of sunscreen petrochemicals that have **questionable effects on the health of humans and marine life** is in alignment with **the Precautionary Principle, affording us the opportunity to protect our environment and communities for future generations.**

Sincerely,

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy, Director
Kahalu‘u Bay Education Center
a program of The Kohala Center

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 2:08:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Agriculture and Environment Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Nishihara; Committee on Water and Land Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran; and members of both Committees:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR173/SR66.

Providing non-chemical, mineral based sunscreen dispensers at all State beaches is a critical step in mitigating the existential threat of chemical sunscreens on our fragile marine environments. This commitment is especially important for visitors to Marine Life Conservation Districts like Hanauma Bay and Pupukea that are chronically threatened by anthropogenic stressors. Further, a recent study found that beach showers serve as point sources of pollution for chemical sunscreens in Hanauma Bay, a Class AA marine embayment under the Clean Water Act, so non-chemical, mineral based sunscreen dispensers can dramatically reduce the amount of reef-toxic sunscreens polluting what is supposed to be a pristine marine environment.

We therefore urge you to support SCR173/SR66.

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

March 30, 2022

TO:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2022

FROM:

The members of the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition

RE: OPPOSITION to Senate Concurrent Resolution 173/SR 166 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NON-CHEMICAL, MINERAL-BASED SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT ALL STATE BEACHES

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land; the members of the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition **strongly oppose** SCR 173/SR 166.

This bill intends to support sunscreen use in a high-risk setting by providing sunscreen dispensers at all Hawaii State beaches. However, the members of the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition are concerned by the differential preference expressed in this resolution for mineral-based sunscreens over chemical sunscreens.

The expressed preference for mineral versus chemical sunscreens is not grounded in the current science, which identifies features of mineral-based sunscreens as also being potentially harmful to marine environments. Mineral sunscreens and the physical residue they leave in our ocean can cause more damage to coral reefs than chemical sunscreens.

The publicity surrounding these recent bills has created tremendous misconceptions regarding the effects of sunscreens containing these ingredients on our precious coral reef ecologies. Banning chemical sunscreen products in favor of “reef-safe” products opens the door to potentially more harm, both to our reef and to individuals at-risk for skin cancers. The ingredients of many “reef-safe” products currently have not been tested for their environmental

The Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition's mission is to provide clear, concise messages on skin cancer prevention, early detection, and effective treatment for both the public and health professionals based upon current and accurate information. The Coalition is a collaborative effort between concerned local organizations and businesses including, the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society, Hawaii Pathologists' Laboratory, the Friends of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, the Hawaii Dermatological Society, Kaiser Permanente, Kuukini Health System, Queen's Healthcare Plan, and the Hawaii Ophthalmological Society.
All of these organizations share a common goal to help prevent skin cancer.

effects or their ability to provide adequate sun protection according to standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The risk to coral environments by either mineral or chemical sunscreen use is not settled. However, the ambiguity in promoting one type of sunscreen over another has already diminished sunscreen usage in Hawaii. Since the introduction of sunscreen bills in Hawaii in 2017, sunburns rates have increased from less than 20% to nearly 40% in 2019 in the state. ([Hawaii Health Matters :: Indicators :: Adults with Sunburns, past year :: State : Hawaii](#))

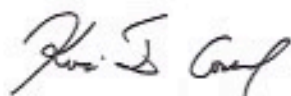
We at the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition and in recognition of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) and the Hawaii Dermatological Society (HDS) recommendations to help prevent skin cancer suggest, "That a comprehensive sun protection plan that includes seeking shade; wearing protective clothing, including hats and sunglasses; and generously applying a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to exposed skin."

Morbidity and deaths from skin cancers are rising in the U.S. and Hawaii. The current focus of Hawaii's legislative policy limiting the sale of specific sunscreen products will undermine years of progress towards addressing the effects of unprotected sun exposure, a primary risk factor for skin cancer. The leading scientific agencies in the U.S. all emphasize that using sunscreens is a critical part of regimens to prevent skin cancers, along with protective clothing, hats with brims, and shade. In open water, hats and shade are not options.

According to the National Cancer Institute, nearly 5 million people are treated for skin cancers in the U.S. and at the cost of over 8 billion dollars to our U.S. healthcare system. In Hawaii, ~7,000 people are treated for skin cancers each year. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is now the second most common form of cancer for females aged 15-29 years old. Each year more than 10,000 people die of melanoma across the U.S. In Hawaii, 400 people are diagnosed, and ~50 people die each year. It is essential that we conduct valid research to understand the potential environmental effects of sunscreen use better to protect Hawaii's natural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong OPPOSITION to SCR 173/SR 166, and ask that you defer this resolution on behalf of the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition.

Sincerely,



Kevin D. Cassel, DrPH

President, Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition

The Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition's mission is to provide clear, concise messages on skin cancer prevention, early detection, and effective treatment for both the public and health professionals based upon current and accurate information. The Coalition is a collaborative effort between concerned local organizations and businesses including, the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society, Hawaii Pathologists' Laboratory, the Friends of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center, the Hawaii Dermatological Society, Kaiser Permanente, Kuakini Health System, Queen's Healthcare Plan, and the Hawaii Ophthalmological Society. All of these organizations share a common goal to help prevent skin cancer.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 10:58:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for For the Fishes	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Inouye and Committee Members,

Please accept our support of SCR173 urging DLNR to install reef safe sunscreen dispensers at state beaches. Installation of dispensers will not only increase compliance with existing laws but serve to educate and inform residents and visitors alike, of the importance of protecting our critically important and fragile reefs from chemical harm and other stressors.

We encourage manufacturers of reef safe sunscreens to work with the state in providing free or low cost sunscreen products to assist in implementing this Resolution.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 2:39:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Badgley	Testifying for Coral Reef Education Institute	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha and Iokepa Command

As a representative of the Coral Reef Education Institute and educated coral practitioner in Hawaii, I want to support any resolutions that will protect our corals, marine life, and fish stocks. I also support new ways to effectively manage our shorelines and the intent of Bill SCR173/SR166 is admirable. However, I see many flaws with this approach. First and foremost, DNLR has a hard time currently managing what they are supposed to. Secondly, we need to find solutions that actually help improve reef health that does not cost the taxpayer but instead give local entrepreneurs an opportunity to generate income by selling reef-safe sunscreen products. We all know the dependence our economy has on tourism. Lastly, these receptacles would require a high amount of maintenance and upkeep considering reef safe products are mostly thick and sticky. What level of marketing would be required to actually get tourists to use them instead of a product of their choosing (especially if the dispensers were not cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis)?

I have some alternative suggestions; use the mandatory visitor Agriculture Form as a way to inform incoming tourists that chemical sunscreens are not allowed to be used in the state and they will be required to deposit their products in a collection bin upon arrival. At these collection sites, put signage and information that educate the tourists all about chemical sunscreens and how they kill our reefs. Impose a fine if they are caught using chemical sunscreen products, and put the funds collected by this fine back into the proper disposal of the chemical products collected at the airports. Sell reef-safe sunscreen at all beaches. Require the vendors selling the sunscreen to also educate the public about sunscreen and why reef-safe products are so important to protecting our natural island resources.

The Bill that needs to be passed through the legislature to law is banning the sale of ANY chemical sunscreen in the state of Hawaii, not just oxybenzone and octinoxate. The chemical sunscreen companies changed one compound in oxybenzone and called it avobenzone then put a reef-friendly sticker on their labeling. Visitors to the islands buy these products thinking that they are making the right choice and being thoughtful of our environment. But, instead, they are misinformed and contributing to the death of our coral reefs. This kind of false marketing is unacceptable and the sunscreen companies should be held accountable by banning the sale of their products in our state.

Coral reef Education Institute has produced a 2-minute video that educates about chemical sunscreens vs. reef-safe sunscreen and why to choose one over the other. We show what chemicals to look for when making a purchase and how to apply reef safe products properly. We would love for the opportunity for this to be played on the TVs at all the baggage claims at all the airports so that while tourists are waiting for their bags they can be educated about sunscreen.

Sincerely Heather Howard and Paul Badgley

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 4:37:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:48:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert P Thomas Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although I am not currently on island, I support SCR173. Having worked with Kahaluu Bay Education Center I have seen the damage done to our reefs and waters by chemical sunscreens. This was very apparent when the pandemic occurred and visitation drop to 0 in some areas. The reefs and waters surround the islands flourished. Offering free sunscreen will not only help the reefs and waters but educate visitors to state beaches on the effects we have on our natural resources.

Thank you for your time.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:51:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eleanor Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although I am not currently on island, I support SCR173. Having worked with Kahaluu Bay Education Center I have seen the damage done to our reefs and waters by chemical sunscreens. This was very apparent when the pandemic occurred and visitation drop to 0 in some areas. The reefs and waters surround the islands flourished. Offering free sunscreen will not only help the reefs and waters but educate visitors to state beaches on the effects we have on our natural resources.

Thank you for your time.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:34:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Girbino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a conservation scientist in training at UHH, I can confidently say that this measure would be a huge step in protecting our already threatened and damaged Hawaiian reefs. Please pass this motion for the sake of our reefs, and consider adding informational signs about why "reef-safe" chemical sunscreens are essentially a misnomer, and that zinc-based sun protection is the only truly reef-safe option we have right now.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:47:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elise Wong and I live at 3200 Pacific Heights Road, and as your constituent, I hope that you will seriously consider the importance of our oceans. As a high school student and a resident of Hawaii, I support bill SCR173 because of all the benefit it will yield not only for the people's health and safety, but also for our beaches and ocean. It is well known that chemical sunscreens, while protecting your skin from the sun, also have numerous health implications including, but not limited to, skin irritation, hormonal disruption and even skin cancer. It is also well known that the very same chemicals which jeopardize our health also threaten our coral reefs and marine life. Why then is it so difficult to find safe, mineral sunscreens? It is increasingly difficult for the public, and especially tourists, to identify safe, mineral sunscreens, and even more difficult to find. I personally have run out of my mineral sunscreen and admittedly have been using chemical aerosol sunscreen while I sourced a reasonably priced replacement. By installing mineral-based sunscreen dispensers at all state beaches, it would protect our oceans, protect our people, and increase awareness of the harmful effects of chemical sunscreens.

Although I'm sure the funding of this bill is a concern, it has been proposed that you use funds provided through commercial marine license fees and fines which are supposed to go to conservation efforts anyway. In addition, through the conservation of our beaches, Hawaii becomes a more attractive location for tourists (who provide roughly a quarter of our state's income). Taking all of this into consideration, I ask you to please seriously consider passing bill SCR173 for the future of our people, our ecosystem, and our economy.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 12:46:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support this important measure. Providing mineral sunscreen at State parks will help familiarize visitors and residents with what type of sun protection is safest for them and the environment. This is an important step in caring for the natural resources that provide life to these islands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathleen Clark

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 11:03:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorothy Norris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider this investment in our future health of our coral reef system. The reef protects property and is invaluable to the coastal habitat of Hawaii. Without it, our attraction to our island to tourists, fishing and other sources of wealth will be lost to our community. Please help with the preservation of our coral reefs in this effort to reduce chemicals in our waters.

SCR-173

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 6:47:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Great move, some tour operators like Fair Wind already have dispensers. Government needs to lead.