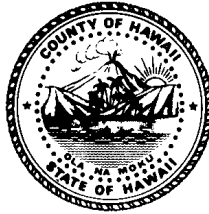


Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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.

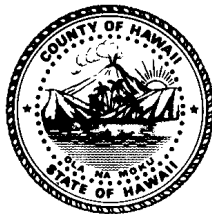
Installing reef-safe sunscreen dispensers at beaches is a long overdue and acceptable remedy that is sure to help protect Hawai'i's coral reef ecosystems.

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 SR166, 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 SR166. 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
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Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
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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

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:45:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arwen Revere	Testifying for Wild Kids	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice-chairs, and Members of the committees,

My name is Arwen Revere and I'm a high school student from Kailua and a member of the environmental organization Wild Kids, who I am representing today. We are in strong support of this bill as we believe it will benefit our reefs. Chemical sunscreens have extremely harmful effects on our ocean environments. Although the state of Hawaii has banned the sale of many chemical sunscreens, many visitors still bring their own toxic sunscreens from home. If passed, this bill would mitigate this issue.

Thank you for hearing our testimony,

Arwen Revere on behalf of Wild Kids

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, Kaula 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](#))

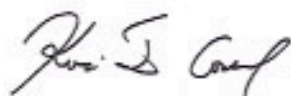
We at the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition and in recognition of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) and the Hawaii Dermatological Society (HDS) recommendations to help prevent skin cancer suggest, "That a comprehensive sun protection plan that includes seeking shade; wearing protective 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.



TO:

Senate Committee on Agriculture &
Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water & Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

FROM: Lynn Miyahira representing Public Access to SunScreens (PASS) Coalition

DATE: Friday, April 1, 2022

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Via Videoconference

Re: SCR 173/SR 166

Position: COMMENT

The [Public Access to SunScreens](#) (PASS) Coalition is a multi-stakeholder coalition composed of public health groups, dermatologists, sunscreen manufacturers, and leading advocates for skin cancer patients.

We support public access to all FDA-approved sunscreens. While we support the intent of providing free, public access to sunscreen for the general public via dispensers, sunscreens should not be limited to just certain ingredients.

It is important to note **there is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence that UV filters in chemical sunscreens are actually harming corals in their natural environment.**

More and more researchers agree that there is not enough evidence to state that sunscreens are negatively impacting coral reefs.

For example, Dr. Ku'ulei Rodgers, principal investigator at the University of Hawai'i Coral Reef Ecology Lab, was asked by the Star-Advertiser about sunscreen threats at Hanauma Bay. [In an article on Nov 20, 2021](#), she was quoted saying that "There is no strong evidence to state sunscreens threaten coral reefs." She goes on to say, "Our coral reef ecology lab has not seen the effects of sunscreen use on bleaching in our monitoring efforts. If there were effects from sunscreen it would be evident." Dr. Rodgers and her team have been studying Hanauma Bay for over 20 years and we can be sure that if sunscreen was a major threat to corals, they would see it in their research.

Additionally, in reaction to an announcement about another mass coral bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef, Professor Nial Wheate from the University of Sydney published an essay

titled, "[No, sunscreen chemicals are not bleaching the Great Barrier Reef](#)" in The Conversation on 3/27/2022.

While we understand the intent of this resolution to provide free access to sunscreen and the need to protect coral reefs, we urge Senators to examine all data – not only select data – on sunscreen impacts on coral reefs.

Mahalo you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lynn Miyahira
Public Access to SunScreens (PASS) Coalition

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:49:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of time and Money stop wasting Taxe payer money onthings like this!!!

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:34:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Feeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One of the most diverse, productive, and vital ecosystems on our planet is the coral reef. Responsible for providing the foundation for these reefs are thousands of colonies of corals, acting as the source of protection of coastlines from wave action and storms, essential nutrients for marine food chains, and habitats for over a million aquatic species. These reef ecosystems are made possible by the unique metabolic processes of corals. However, chemicals in non-mineral based sunscreens act as pollutants and environmental stressors, disrupting these metabolic processes and threatening corals with mutations and bleaching events. Installing and operating mineral based sunscreen dispensers on Hawaii beaches is a step forward in protecting our local reefs and preventing further damage to one of our island's most beautiful and valuable economic, scientific, and ecological resources.

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:39:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of biodiversity, mahalo piha!

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:52:47 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.

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:54:05 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.

SR-166

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:48:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise	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 SR166 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 SCR166 for the future of our people, our ecosystem, and our economy.