

Aloha Maui County Council members:

My name is Jeff Bagshaw, I am the Volunteer Coordinator, outreach and information staff for `Ahihi-Kina`u Natural Area.

I have testified on this topic before and simply wish to add that I support the county's efforts to not only ban the sale of oxybenzone and octinoxate products, but to also ban the USE of these products on county lands.

While I understand this would be very difficult to enforce, such a ban is an invaluable tool in education and deterrence. As a front-line educator on this topic, my goals and my job are to not write tickets. Ticketing is not how we win hearts and minds, it's a last-ditch deterrent for those who refuse to do the right thing. My goals are compliance and awareness through education. If I do my job right, people don't get tickets, they change their behaviors. That said, being able to tell someone there is a county law on county lands can send a powerful message, not just to people I meet in person, but through all others who work with visitors directly such as tour guides and concierges.

Regularly, someone will ask me: "Is there a law...?" or "... are you telling me I can't use this here?" I work on state land (for which an official rule change for Natural Reserve areas would be required), but being able to share that these compounds are not allowed on county lands would greatly add to the educator's toolbox. The ban on smoking in both county and state parks hasn't stopped everyone from smoking, but it may have made a dent, certainly raises awareness, and sends a powerful message that Maui County is working to protect our resources.

Mahalo,
Jeff Bagshaw
Volunteer Coordinator, Information and Education Associate
`Ahihi-Kina`u Natural Area Reserve
(808)264-7891 work-cell
jeff.w.bagshaw@hawaii.gov

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