

PEA Committee

From: lamson@hawaii.edu on behalf of Megan Lamson <meg.HWF@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 8:39 AM
To: PEA Committee
Cc: Katherine Kramer; Hannah Bernard; Autumn R. Ness
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of prohibition of toxic sunscreen ingredients (OXYBENZONE AND OCTINOXATE)
Attachments: Maui.sunscreen_testimony_9.18.2017.pdf

Aloha members of the Maui Policy Committee,

Please see attached for our testimony for tomorrow's hearing in regards to the bill to prohibit sales of products containing Oxybezone and Octinoxate.

Many thanks for your time and consideration!

Me ke mahalo,
Megan Lamson (Hawai'i Wildlife Fund) &
Lindsey Kramer (Eyes of the Reef Network)

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To: pea.committee@mauicounty.us

15 September 2017

Aloha members of the Maui County Policy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the proposed Maui County Legislative Package, which includes a bill related to the prohibition of sales of sun-care products containing Oxybenzone or Octinoxate, active ingredients in certain chemical-based sunscreens. We are testifying on behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Eyes of the Reef Network, and as residents of Hawai'i Island. We are in full support of this initiative that would reduce the amount of chemical stressors on our coral reefs.

Collectively, the two of us have worked in the field of coral reef ecology for more than a quarter century. Lindsey is currently the Hawai'i Island Coordinator for the Eyes of the Reef Network, an organization that offers free public trainings on coral reef health and ecology. Megan is currently the Hawai'i Island Program Director for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, a small conservation organization that conducts coastal restoration work in Hawai'i. Both of us are marine biologists that have Masters degrees in our specific field of research.

Due to the recently documented toxic effects of Oxybenzone on larval corals, as well as the linkages to increased bleaching severity, we believe that this bill is a step in the right direction towards helping promote the recovery of our coral reefs, which recently suffered severe mortality on Hawai'i Island, Maui and other areas as a result of increased ocean temperatures and other stressors.

A few highlights from the recent research on oxybenzone:

- Oxybenzone (a.k.a. benzophenone-3), commonly used in many sunscreens, has been shown to cause deformities in coral larvae, making them unable to swim, settle, or form new colonies, and to increase the severity of coral bleaching.
- Sunscreen chemicals easily wash-off of users when they enter the ocean, particularly if sunscreen is applied just before getting in, and tend to collect in surface waters.

- Scientists and coral reef managers at the International Coral Reef Symposium (June 2016) and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (September 2016) agreed on the negative impacts of Oxybenzone and other sunscreen chemicals on corals, and recommended an elimination of use in areas with coral reefs.
- The Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) is asking all ocean-users to avoid sunscreens containing Oxybenzone, as indicated by a press release on Sept. 2nd, 2016.

Coral reefs are a treasured part of our island community, and provide the foundation for our nearshore fisheries and a booming eco-tourism industry. In light of the devastating recent declines in coral cover, now more than ever, we need to commit to conservation efforts such as this one. It is as simple as making a switch from one product to another and from what we understand the vast majority of local sunscreen companies are already Oxybenzone- and Octinoxate-free.

Thank you for your time and consideration for our coral reef ecosystems. We trust you to make the right decisions when it comes to using the best-available science for guiding your island's policy making process.

Please let us know should you have any further questions or concerns.

Me ka mahalo,



Lindsey Kramer, M.S. (KramerKL@Hawaii.edu)
Eyes of the Reef Network Coordinator - Hawai'i Island
<https://eorhawaii.org/>

&



Megan Lamson, M.S. Island (megan@wildhawaii.org)
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Below is a flier that we created to inform consumers of some alternative sunscreen products available locally (Hawai'i Island). This flier was created with the support Eyes of the Reef Network, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, The Kohala Center and West Hawai'i Fishery Council.



PLANNING TO GO INTO THE OCEAN...?

CHOOSE A **CORAL-SAFE** SUNSCREEN!

Certain sunscreen ingredients are TOXIC to corals:

- Up to 14,000 tons of sunscreen washes off of ocean-goers and into coral reef environments each year.
- Oxybenzone in sunscreens can damage coral larvae and may worsen coral bleaching when water temperatures are elevated.
- DLNR is asking ocean-users to avoid sunscreens containing oxybenzone. State legislation is proposed to ban this chemical.
- Research continues on other sunscreen ingredients including: avobenzone, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, octinoxate, methoxy-cinnamate, camphors, parabens, and nanoparticle minerals, which may also harm corals.
- Physical barrier sunscreens (zinc-oxide or titanium-dioxide based) are the best option for protecting yourself AND minimizing impacts on coral reefs.




**SUNSCREEN RECOMMENDATIONS:
(AVAILABLE AT LOCAL RETAILERS, AS OF OCT. 2016)**

Alba Botanica: Natural Mineral Protection Sunblock SPF 30 *(Island Naturals, KTA, Walmart)*

All Good: Sport Sunscreen Lotion SPF 33 or Unscented Sunstick SPF 30 *(Island Naturals)*

All Terrain: AquaSport/ Terrasport/ Kidsport Sunscreen Lotion, SPF 30 *(Island Naturals)*

Aveeno: Active Naturals, Natural Protection Lotion, SPF 50 *(Walmart)*

Aveeno: Active Naturals, Natural Protection Baby, Lotion or Stick, SPF 50 *(Walmart)*

Banana Boat: Kids Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 *(KTA, Sack N Save, Safeway, Target, Walmart)*

Banana Boat: Baby Sunscreen Lotion SPF 50 *(KTA, Sack N Save, Walmart)*

Bare Republic: Natural Mineral Sunscreen Sport/Kids Spray, SPF 30 *(Target)*

Bare Republic: Natural Mineral Sunscreen Lotion, Sport, SPF 50 or Face, SPF 30 *(Target)*

Coola Suncare: Mineral Sunscreen Unscented, Baby, SPF 50 *(Island Naturals)*

Coola Suncare: Classic Sunscreen Unscented, Sport/Body/Face, SPF 30 *(Island Naturals)*

CVS: Baby Pure & Gentle Sunstick Sunscreen, SPF 60 *(Long's Drugs)*

Goddess Garden: Natural Sunscreen Lotion: Sport/ Kids/ Baby, SPF 30 *(Island Naturals)*

Goddess Garden: Natural Sunscreen Continuous Spray: Sport/ Kids, SPF 30 *(Island Naturals)*

The Honest Company: Mineral Sunscreen Lotion, SPF 50+ *(Costco, Target)*

The Honest Company: Mineral Sunscreen Spray or Stick, SPF 30 *(Costco, Target)*

MyChelle Dermaceuticals: Sun Shield Clear Stick, SPF 50 *(Island Naturals)*

MyChelle Dermaceuticals: Replenishing Solar Defense, SPF 30, or Sun Shield, SPF 28 *(Island Naturals)*

Neutrogena: Pure & Free Liquid Sunscreen, SPF 50+ *(Long's Drugs)*

Neutrogena: Pure & Free Baby Faces Sunscreen Lotion, SPF 45+ or Stick, SPF 60+ *(Long's Drugs, Target, Walmart)*

Promise Organic: Coconut Sunscreen Stick, SPF 30 *(Long's Drugs)*

Stream2Sea: Mineral Sunscreen for Body/Sport/Face, SPF 30 *(Big Island Divers, Kona Honu Divers, Island Naturals)*




Revised information provided by: West Hawai'i Fishery Council, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, and the Hawai'i Islands Eyes of the Reef Network.