

Dear Maui County Council Members,

Maui coral reefs have been declining for years in many locations. We know that some of these acute declines are from El Nino-related coral bleaching, but the recovery of these mass mortality events is dependent on local factors. One of these local factors is the presence at high concentrations of Oxybenzone and Octinoxate chemicals associated with sunscreen pollution.

Over 55 gallons of sunscreen product enters in Maui's waters each day. These chemicals prevent new corals from coming back, and prevent established corals from reproducing or healing. These chemicals impair local fish embryo development, as well as sea urchin embryo development.

Our business and our industry have implemented public relations and education efforts to help our clients understand the threat of Oxybenzone/Octinoxate pollution on our coral reefs, and to even mitigate this pollution with the availability of other methods of effective sunprotection, including safer sunscreen products and sunwear clothing.

We look to Maui County to provide leadership in this effort in sunscreen pollution mitigation. We encourage them to consider a variety of options that will help restrict the use of Oxybenzone/Octinoxate products, especially regulations in the restriction of the sale of these products, or the use of these products in county park areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dallas Mitchell". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dallas Mitchell
303 Boards Inc.