

IEM Committee

From: Pat Lindquist <pblindquist@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2017 11:08 AM
To: IEM Committee
Cc: Pat Lindquist; Autumn R. Ness
Subject: Testimony for October 16, 2017 committee meeting
Attachments: Testimony on Sunscreen bans 10.16.17.pdf

Importance: High

Please see the attached testimony regarding sunscreen pollution, for the October 16th Committee meeting.

Mahalo,
Pat

Pat B. Lindquist

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NAPILI

Bay and Beach Foundation

*PO Box 10823
Lahaina, HI 96761*

October 15, 2017

To: Elle Cochran, Chair
Members of Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee, Maui County

In Napili Bay and Beach Foundation's continued efforts to protect and improve the health of Napili beach and bay, we have learned of the deleterious effects of some sunscreen ingredients on reef life, particularly the ingredient oxybenzone and its derivatives. As this information became known at the International Coral Reef Society 2016 meeting in Honolulu (June 2016), many people asked how to protect Hawaii's reefs from the damage it causes.

At Napili, our heightened awareness of the toxic effects of oxybenzone over the past two years, has led to educational outreach, and removal of oxybenzone containing sunscreens, skin creams off the shelves of our beach activity stores.

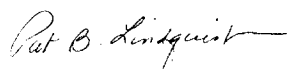
I am writing to you today, to ask you to support legislative efforts that would prohibit the manufacture or delivery for introduction into commerce in the County of Maui, and in the entire State of Hawaii, the sunscreen chemical commonly known as OXYBENZONE. Keeping these products off of ALL store shelves will go a long way to reducing the amount of oxybenzone and octinoxate that get onto the reefs.

OXYBENZONE (as well as OCTINOXATE) are considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration as "emerging environmental contaminants of concern." In October 2015, a scientific publication in Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology showed the toxicology and pollution of OXYBENZONE and its threat to coral reefs in Florida, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since October 2015, many other scientific papers have been published with data supporting that OXYBENZONE (1) pollutes the environment, (2) accumulates and travels through the ecological food-chain, (3) can cause natural resource damage to aquatic and marine environments, (4) is a significant endocrine disruptor in a variety of animal life including marine mammals, and (5) causes damage to coral planula (baby corals) that decreases their motility and ability to create new reef growth.

The science and environmental impact of this chemical is quickly being recognized and its importance is spreading in the broader social consciousness. In the past two years large number of citizen groups across the U.S. have rallied together to educate the general public about this easily mitigated environmental and human-health threat.

Hawaii's reefs are under seige, and we encourage you to take a leadership stand to protect our coastal waters and coral reefs by banning sale of all products containing Oxybenzone, in the County of Maui and in the State of Hawaii, effectively mitigating this source of pollution.

Sincerely,



Pat B. Lindquist, President, Napili Bay and Beach Foundation

Pat B. Lindquist, President
Scott Ullrich, Director

Gregg Nelson, Vice-President
Jamie Lung-Ka'eo, Director

Nane Aluli, Secretary
Dana Reed, Director