

Aloha and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to weigh in on your legislative package for the upcoming 2018 session. My name is Alicia Rittenberry and I am the president of The Student Ohana for Sustainability (SOS), a student led organization based at the University of Hawaii Maui College that works towards the goals of creating a sustainable Maui and Hawaii. We support including restrictions on the sale of sunscreen containing harmful ingredients to coral reefs. Coral reefs are incredibly important for marine ecosystems and to the Hawaii economy. It has been estimated that Hawaii's nearshore reefs annually generate \$800 million in gross revenues and \$34 million for Kihei alone. Reefs provide an ecosystem for many marine organisms, protect the shoreline by dispersing wave energy, which lessens storm damage, and provide recreational and cultural value.

There are many increasing threats to the health of the world's coral. One that has recently been discovered is an ingredient found in many sunscreens. Oxybenzone negatively impacts coral health in several different ways and is a threat to Hawaii's reefs in particular. Oxybenzone can be toxic to baby coral at levels as low as 62 parts per trillion. That's the equivalent to one drop in 6.5 Olympic swimming pools. In a 2015 study, 11 out of 13 tested areas in Maui's waters showed levels several times that amount. Oxybenzone can also negatively impact human health, especially in children, and was named the Contact Allergen of the Year in 2014. Because of the many negative effects of oxybenzone, sunscreens containing this ingredient should not be sold or used in Hawaii. The most dangerous threat to coral reef health is rising ocean temperatures, which is a complex issue that has many causes, is difficult for an individual to affect a change, and will take a significant amount of time to counter. In the meantime, we should stand up and be leaders and do all we can to give coral reefs, that are so important to us, every opportunity for success.

Last April, I helped organize the SOS sunscreen swap and educational awareness at Kamaole beach park. We were thrilled with how receptive people were to making an easy shift and doing their part to take care of our coral reef ecosystems. Today, I am here to ask that you do your part by including restrictions on toxic sunscreens in your legislative package, thus urging our state legislators to take leadership on this issue as well.

Thank you,
Student Ohana for Sustainability