

IEM Committee

From: John Gelert <jgelert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 15, 2017 4:27 PM
To: IEM Committee
Subject: Sunscreen county communication item 17-316

Aloha Maui County Infrastructure And Environmental Management Committee,

I volunteered for 3 years at Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve. We were the first to learn about the damaging effects of chemical sunscreen containing oxybenzone, octinoxate, or similar ingredients. We did our best to inform visitors to the reserve to use mineral sunscreens instead. But there is a huge resident and visitor population that we could not reach that goes to beaches all over Hawaii. And the stores are loaded with chemical sunscreen, some of which even masquerade as "reef safe".

Chemical sunscreens are endocrine disrupters. They are so toxic that they inhibit coral reproduction at only 62 ppb. That is one drop in 6 1/2 olympic swimming pools of water. They also disrupt hormones in the human body too, which can lead to cancer, reproductive problems, or other problems.

Please ban these chemical sunscreens immediately to help save our coral reefs and the marine life therein!

Mahalo nui,

John Gelert
Kihei, HI