

IEM Committee

From: Malina Fagan <malina.fagan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 11:36 AM
Subject: "Reefs At Risk" - Please Ban Oxybenzone

Dear County Council Members.

We are a mother-daughter filmmaking team from the Big Island who made a short documentary about sunscreen pollution in Hawaii called "Reefs At Risk". We are thrilled that county council members on different islands are looking to ban oxybenzone from harming our coral reefs, marine life and people and we ask that you take ten minutes to watch the informative film we produced on this issue: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28qWIPeOkvI>.

It has been seen over 100K times on Facebook and been shared around the world to help create awareness about this issue and promote healthier reefs. It also premiered at the Hawaii International Film Festival with Chasing Coral and at the Maui Film Festival earlier this year, and is a part of the upcoming Ohina Showcase which will have screenings on Oahu, Maui and the Big Island.

This issue is starting to get widespread attention; In the past week CBS Morning News and the New York Times (Sunday paper) published stories about Hawaii lawmakers looking to ban oxybenzone to protect our reefs. You can read them below:

<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/08/19/opinion/sunday/sunscreen-poisoning-ocean-reef.html?referer=https://www.google.com/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hawaii-considers-sunscreen-oxybenzone-ban-to-help-save-coral-reefs/>

We ask that you please do what's best for the environment, our economy, and the health of our keiki, and ban oxybenzone and octinoxate, which are both harmful to life. There are many effective and safe sunscreens out there that do not contain these ingredients and the sunscreen industry is already prepared to phase these chemicals out. Please create bills that ban the use and sale of these compounds. Our coral reefs will thank you.

The funding for our film was provided by the Redford Center Grants and New York Community Trust for our work-in-progress feature film "The Coverup" which addresses the toxic chemicals used in our everyday cosmetics and personal care products (like shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) We felt the section on sunscreen, and oxybenzone in particular, was too timely to wait so we released "Reefs At Risk."

You can also help spread the word by sharing our film in your newsletters and on your Facebook pages. Our website is www.ReefsAtRisk.org and our Facebook handle is @TheCoverupFilm. Much thanks and aloha for the work that you do to improve our home and community!

Mahalo nui loa,
Malina Fagan & Lynn Pelletier

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You can follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and support our outreach [here](#).