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HR 375/HCR 170
REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE STATE'S ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Statement for
House Committee on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 20 March 1981

By
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HR 375 (HCR 170) requests that the House Committee on Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection complete a comprehensive review and assessment of the State's energy conservation program. The Committee is further requested to report back to the House of Representatives prior to the adjournment of the 1981 Regular Session. This statement on HR 375 (HCR 170) does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The Environmental Center shares the concerns expressed in HR 375 (HCR 170). We believe that the State's energy conservation program should complement and strengthen the efforts being taken to develop alternate and renewable sources of energy. In this respect there is an urgent need to coordinate all energy-related governmental programs.

It would appear that the scope of the review and assessment requested by HR 375 is such that an adequate report could not be prepared prior to the adjournment of the 1981 Regular Session. The comprehensive review program requested by HR 375 is so broad in its scope that any one of the six programs cited could require an extended time period for adequate assessment. As our time is limited, we offer only a few specific concerns which you may wish to consider in connection with this resolution.

In its review of the State's energy conservation program, the committee should critically examine the energy conservation standards for building design and construction as specified in HRS 46-19.6. This will require an evaluation of the standards described in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE) handbook. It may be the case that county building codes demand a greater degree of flexibility than is provided in the ASHRAE handbook. Energy-efficient building designs should continue to be a major part of the State's conservation program.

With regard to transportation, we would urge that the relative costs of operation and maintenance of air-conditioned buses be examined and weighed against the costs and benefits of the installation of alternative window or louvered ventilation systems.

A greater effort is needed toward the development of safe bicycle and moped type transportation corridors. Efforts to facilitate the use of bicycle and moped usage in cooperation with bus transportation such as park and ride stations should be considered.

If this resolution is adopted we would hope that the House Committee on Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection will be able to follow through on their findings with the introduction of appropriate amendments in the 1982 legislative session.