



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0756

## SB 2641 RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION

Senate Committee on  
Planning and Environment  
Public Hearing - February 26, 1988

By  
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center  
John Harrison, Environmental Center  
Steven Armann, Environmental Center

SB 2641 would amend HRS Section 342-32 by adding a new section, that would require the director of Health to test and assess any water subjected to an oil spill or other form of pollution as to its purity, potability, and effect on aquatic and other life.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

This bill will require that environmental studies be conducted in all Hawaiian waters where an oil spill or other pollution occurs. It does not allow any discretion by the director in such cases where the magnitude and location of the pollution is unlikely to have a significant effect on biota and potability. Furthermore, the mandatory requirement for testing of the effects on potability are not appropriate for coastal and brackish waters.

This bill requires additional duties but does not appropriate funds to the Department of Health (DOH) to carry out duties.

We support the intent of this bill as it relates to the protection of the environment and specifically to human health by testing and assessing the potential hazards associated with the consumption of affected biota. However, amendments to recognize the need for discretionary action should be considered.