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SR 165 SCR 177
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TO REVIEW STATE POLICY CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Agriculture
Public Hearing - April 11, 1989

By
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SR 165 SCR 177 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources review state policy concerning the protection of endangered species.

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

It is our understanding that the key issue with regard to protection of endangered species is not necessarily a problem with inadequate state policies but more likely with enforcement of existing statutes. Hence, we would encourage that SCR 177 be amended by adding a fifth paragraph to the first Be It Resolved to direct the DLNR to review the efficacy of the enforcement programs relative to the protection of native endangered species. In this regard, a review of the citation records of the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement would be helpful in assessing what categories of violations are most prevalent, i.e. what types of violations receive the most attention. This would permit an evaluation of the appropriateness of enforcement efforts, for example, enforcement efforts relative to littering, parking, hunting, or protection of endangered species. We further suggest that the review also include the eventual outcomes or penalties for violators and how well those penalties reflect the seriousness of the offenses.