



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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RL:0396

**SR 144**  
**REQUESTING ADOPTION OF POLICY**  
**TO ASSURE PRESERVATION OF LANDS**  
**FOR TARO AND OTHER WETLAND CROPS**

**Statement for**  
**Senate Committee on**  
**Agriculture**  
**Public Hearing - 8 April 1980**

**By**  
**Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center**

SR 144 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources consider adoption of a state land lease policy giving priority to the use of lowlands with available water for paddy crop production such as taro production. This statement on the resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The resolution validly presents the problems faced by wetland farmers, including taro farmers, in spite of the State policy intended to promote diversified agriculture, including taro and other wetland farming. We wish to point out that if the continuance or expansion of taro and other wetland farming is to be promoted, it is important not merely to give priority to such farming in the policies regarding leases of land with available water but also in the policies regarding water allocation to land available for such farming. Particularly in areas where the development of water resources is approaching the sustainable yield of the resources, it is probable that without priority in water allocation, water supplies now available for wet-land farming will be developed for other purposes.