HB 557
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

House Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - February 4, 1995
9:00 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

By
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HB 557 adds any use requiring an air pollutant source permit under Section 342B-22 to the triggers for environmental assessment under Chapter 343, HRS.

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

We strongly support application of rational analysis to the process of environmental decisionmaking, and the assessment and review provided under chapter 343 are the principle means available for early project analysis. Thus, while the proposed amendment to include uses requiring an air source permit was not among the recommended amendments in our recent study of chapter 343, there clearly is no harm in early project review for proposed major sources. We would suggest that DOH amend their exemption list to ensure that minor actions be defined and excluded from this review.

We are unclear as to the intended purpose of the proposed amendments to paragraph (8) relating to the State Register of Historic Places. However, the resulting language is ambiguous, appearing to arbitrarily diminish the relative significance of the State Register as compared with the National Register. Hence, we prefer the language as originally written.