HB 1763 HD2
RELATING TO HAWAIIAN FISHPONDS

House Committee on Judiciary

Public Hearing - February 23, 1995
2:00 P.M., Room 802, SOT

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HB 1763 HD2 would transfer management responsibility for fishpond oversight to a new program within the department of land and natural resources, and would establish a consolidated fishpond permitting program to facilitate fishpond revitalization.

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

Amendments to prior drafts of HB 1763 HD2 have addressed most of the substantive issues which we raised in earlier testimony. However, while we recognize the problems faced by persons trying to rehabilitate fishponds, the history of permit streamlining in Hawaii has generally proven somewhat problematic, as in the case of geothermal regulation. We thus urge caution in the permit consolidation process, especially since the coastal environment is so sensitive. In particular, we suggest that permit consolidation not be interpreted to mean simultaneous approval of multiple ponds in different locations under a single generic assessment. Assessment and permitting must recognize unique and site-specific characteristics of concern.

We also note that the reference on page 5, line 14 to "agriculture" most likely is a typographical error, and should read "aquaculture".