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HCR 114 HD1
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE
TO ADDRESS CONCERNS RELATED TO POLLUTION
OF WAIKIKI AREA BEACH WATERS

Senate Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - April 21, 1995
1:00 P.M., Room 305 SOT

by

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Roger Fujioka, Water Resources Research Center

HCR 114 HD1 seeks establishment of a task force to evaluate concerns regarding bacterial contamination of coastal waters adjacent to Waikiki and to recommend a strategy to remedy those concerns. This resolution is companion legislation to SCR 237 on which we previously provided testimony and which was amended in this committee to reflect our comments.

We concur that maintenance of the highest quality of recreational waters is a top priority for the State, particularly in areas such as Waikiki. Thus, the University of Hawaii is willing to participate in the review of previous studies related to issues of bacterial contamination of ocean waters off of Waikiki. Development of new information, however, may require fiscal support which this measure does not provide and such support must be considered in the light of current budgetary priorities.

It is our understanding that existing groups may be able to incorporate the objectives of this resolution into their working agendas, and that a new task force may not be necessary. University assistance may be helpful in the deliberation of these issues, and to the extent that existing budgetary allocations are not displaced, we will be pleased to help.