SB 2677
RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION

Senate Committee on
Tourism and Recreation

Public Hearing - February 6, 1996
1:00 P.M., Room 224, State Capitol

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Andy Johnson, Student Services
Christine Woolaway, Sea Grant

SB 2677 would amend §200-4, HRS, to require DLNR to adopt rules providing for commercial licensing of kayak rental operations.

Our statement on this measure is compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of listed academic sources, and as such, does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

1. Removing discretionary provisions for rulemaking in this section seems likely to create enormous demands on the department for implementation of management activities that don’t seem warranted, particularly during times of fiscal constraint.

2. We are unaware of an accredited course of training for kayak operations. Most of the qualifications enjoyed by those who instruct others on proper techniques for kayak use are simply gained from experience. Thus, it may be difficult to regulate and enforce “minimum qualifications” for operators. Similarly, other than a few common sense practices, “minimum safety standards” are hard to envision.

More generally, we wonder what problem is motivating this proposal. It is not clear that revenues gained from licensing will defray departmental costs of implementing and managing such a program.