HB 2659
RELATING TO FRESHWATER FISHING RESERVES, REFUGES, AND
PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources
House Committee on Water and Land Use Planning

Joint Public Hearing - February 5, 1998
8:30 A.M., Room 312 State Capitol

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Bruce Carlson, Aquarium
Paul Jokiel, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Unit

HB 2659 would establish a special fund for freshwater fishing, refuges, and public fishing areas, would amend Chapter 188, HRS to allow DLNR to enter into management agreements for such areas, and would establish guidelines for allowable activities.

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

Our reviewers generally see no problem with the provisions of this measure apart from some vagueness of language. For instance, it's not clear from the measure whether the intended agreements would be with other public agencies or with private organizations. If the latter is the intent, we suggest that line 7, page 2 be amended to include the words, “with public or private entities” after “agreements”. Also, on Page 3, line 15, does “natural growth” refer to aquatic animals only, or does it include aquatic plants and terrestrial animals and plants?

We note that specifying “introduced freshwater fishes” (Page 1, line 19) introduces a limiting ambiguity into the measure. If the word “introduced” were removed, this statute could provide an unambiguous vehicle for promoting the propagation of native freshwater species, including some of the native gobies.