SB 2413 S.D. 2 H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

House Committee on Finance

Public Hearing - April 8, 1998
2:00 P.M., Room 308 State Capitol

by
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

SB 2413 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 would enact amendments to various Chapters and sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to increase the Environmental Response Revolving Fund (ERRF) ceiling to $20,000,000, to provide for legislative oversight of the ERRF, to abolish the Office of Environmental Quality Control, merging its functions with the Office of Planning of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and to effect fundamental changes to the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 344, HRS) which would prioritize economic interests in the implementation of any environmental protective or regulatory State action.

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

I again take strong exception to the underlying rationales for amendments to this measure introduced by the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. In testimony before the Finance Committee on similar proposals added to HB 3531 H.D. 2, I noted flaws in underlying premises of these proposals which continue to be seriously problematic.

In addition, I strongly support the intent of amendments proposed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control, and I encourage the Committee to support the intent of increasing the ceiling of the ERRF as expressed in the Senate Draft of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.