SB 521
RELATING TO THE BROWN TREE SNAKE

Senate Committee on Economic Development

Public Hearing, February 3, 1999
1:30 p.m., Room 224, State Capitol

by
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Sheila Conant, Zoology
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SB 521 would establish a brown tree snake task force within the department of agriculture, directed to determine the best method of preventing the snakes' entry into Hawaii and to submit findings, recommendations, and draft legislation to the legislature prior to the regular session of 2000.

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

Our reviewers note that a substantial amount of effort already has been directed towards understanding and addressing the problem of brown tree snake interdiction. The US Department of Agriculture, along with state and territorial authorities, has implemented procedures in both Hawaii and Guam to reduce the chances of snake introduction. However, we suggest that additional efforts are needed, particularly in the area of strengthening public education and providing severe warnings against purposeful or accidental introduction of this or any other alien snake. Generally, we would prefer a program of action to an additional study.