HB 942
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing, February 8, 1999
8:30 a.m., Room 312, State Capitol

By
John Harrison, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant

HB 942 amends Section 343-5, HRS, to provide for extension of public review of
draft environmental assessments and draft environmental impact statements.

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

This measure responds to the recent opinion of the state Attorney General that
because chapter 343 makes no provision for review period extension, none may be
granted, even when so requested by an agency or an applicant. This practice was
formerly followed in cases where the project or EIS was complex. Allowing for
additional time to review some projects should be made part of the law, however, the
circumstances when additional time is needed should be defined in the rules promulgated
by the Environmental Council. Alternatively, instead of inserting "at least" as proposed
in the measure, the phrase, "or more, by mutual agreement between the Office and an
Agency or Applicant" may be added after each draft EA and draft EIS review period
specification.