HB 424 HD2
RELATING TO FOREST RESERVES

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Economic Development

Joint Public Hearing - March 22, 1999
1:30 p.m., Room 225, State Capitol

by
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HB 424 HD2 would amend Sections 195F-3, 195F-4, 195F-6 and 183-16, HRS, to allocate income from the forest stewardship fund on a priority basis to reforestation and maintenance of harvested plantation areas.

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.

This measure is substantially similar to SB 1097, and in prior hearings on these measures we have noted the following concern. The idea of using income from harvest of non-native products from State lands to support a program of sustainable forestry has merit. However, since any experienced program manager can ALWAYS substantiate a claim that a program is not "adequately funded", the proviso starting on page 5, line 8 would effectively divert all available funds to maintenance of designated timber management areas. To remedy this issue, we suggest that page 5, lines 8-11 be deleted. Lines 6-7 would then read,

(C) Developing environmental education and training programs pertaining to sustainable forestry[;].