HCR 256 / HR 225
REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER TO CONVENE AN ADVISORY TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS INTRODUCED DURING THE REGULAR SESSION OF 1999, TO REMEDY PERCEIVED DEFICIENCIES IN THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS LAW

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - March 31, 1999
9:30 a.m., Room 312, State Capitol

By
John Harrison, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HCR 256 / HR 225 expresses the Legislative intent that the UH Environmental Center convene a formal proceeding to review, discuss, study, and evaluate specific proposed amendments to Chapter 343, HRS.

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.

The resolution correctly notes that over the years, the Environmental Center has repeatedly undertaken comprehensive studies of various environmental quality management statutes and policies. Hence, we are appropriately positioned to bring to such studies those resources within the University most relevant to a constructive analysis. However, studies such as those referenced in HCR 256 generally have been conducted as extramurally funded research projects. Our 1991 review of the EIS system for instance was funded at a level of roughly $40,000, covering costs of surveys, travel for outer island consultations, supplies, and staff support.

Clearly, discussion and analysis of these issues is crucial to the resolution of existing conflicts of opinion and to the improvement of Hawaii's environmental management system. Recognizing the extended workload implications of this study, we have initiated discussions with the Department of Health regarding their willingness to provide administrative and logistic support for this effort. Working together, we anticipate constructive efforts will lead to a substantive report to the Legislature prior to next year's session.