HB 184
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FIRETREE RESEARCH AND CONTROL

Statement for
House Committee on
Agriculture
Public Hearing - February 6, 1991

By
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HB 184 would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 1992-93 for firetree research and control.

Our statement on this bill does not represent and institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

As indicated in the November 1990 publication prepared by the Hawaii Steering Committee on Firetree Control, firetree was introduced into Hawaii about 1900, and now covers an estimated 92,000 acres. "It is one of the most severe long-term threats to the continued existence of native forests, ecosystems, and their associated wildlife."

It is our understanding that the Governor's Agricultural Coordinating Committee (GACC) is most familiar with the Firetree Research and Control Program and therefore would be a logical administrator of the funds. The Cooperative National Park Resources Studies Unit at the University of Hawaii has been responsible for carrying out much of the actual research and therefore is similarly the logical research unit to continue the new research.

The appropriation of funds designated for research and control of firetree infestations is highly appropriate and we concur with the intent of this legislation.