SB 1688
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DETERMINE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CLEAR OVERGROWTH FROM WINDWARD OAHU STREAMS

Statement on
Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use Management
Public Hearing - February 12, 1991

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SB 1688 would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the purpose of determining the costs of clearing windward Oahu streams of debris and overgrowth.

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

We recognize the need for clearing of windward streams to minimize stream overflow and flood damage to adjacent properties in times of high rainfall. However, we urge that in addition to assessing the costs involved in initial clearing, that the assessment also considerate costs and schedules for periodic long-term maintenance.

It is likely that the monetary and environmental costs of routine maintenance will be significantly less that the massive "clean-out's." that are initiated only when the flood risk becomes critical.

There is no indication in the bill for any need to consider environmental issues when assessing the costs of clearing. Recognition is needed, perhaps in the committee report, of the need for due consideration of the environment so as to minimize destruction of the stream and wetland habitats, beyond that required for adequate flood controls.

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