SB 1912
RELATING TO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - February 20, 1991

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SB 1912 addresses the need for and environmentally responsible program for the collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes and would direct the counties to establish a permanent household hazardous waste management system by January 1, 1994. The bill also provides direct guidelines to the counties toward meeting this directive. Prior to the development and implementation of the county programs, funds would be provided to the Department of Health to conduct annual, statewide household hazardous waste collections.

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

We strongly concur with the intent of this bill and note that the provisions for a systematic and permanent system for the collection and disposal of hazardous waste is desperately needed. Without such a system, household hazardous materials will continue to find their way into our storm drains, landfills and groundwaters. As we pointed out in our testimony on a related bill last year, the University's Environmental Health and Safety Office and our Environmental Center frequently receive calls from farmers and the public for advice and assistance in the disposal of hazardous wastes. We also note the success of the previous collection of household hazardous waste and the obvious eagerness of the public to cooperate in the collection program. SB 1912 will provide the basis for a permanent solution to this problem.