SB 1378 S.D.2
RELATING TO NATURAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

Statement for House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Consumer Protection and Commerce
Public Hearing - March 21, 1991

By
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Charles Lamoureux, Botany; College of Arts and Sciences
Ruth Gay, Botany
Michael DiGregorio, Urban and Regional Planning
Clifford Smith, Botany

SB 1378 S.D.2 would authorize the Board of Land and Natural Resources to provide state matching funds to manage private lands dedicated to conservation under the natural area partnership program. The bill also appropriates $500,000 to the credit of the Natural Area Reserve Fund to finance grants under the partnership program.

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

We strongly concur with the purposes and intent of this bill. Under existing statutes, only state lands can be designated under the Natural Area Reserve System. SB 1378 S.D.2 would significantly broaden the scope of this System and improve the ability of the State to protect private conservation lands of special value. Furthermore, the bill provides matching funds at the ratio of 2 State to 1 private for management of the private lands dedicated to conservation.

We would like to call attention to some details in the bill that may be appropriate to amend or clarify through the committee report.

Pg.2 lines 14-19. This paragraph (4) stipulates that the landowner (from page 1 line 15) ...Along with the cooperating entity, submit an annual report to the department detailing the year's management accomplishments, areas needing technical advice, proposed modifications to the plan, and objectives and budget for the coming year;... It would seem more appropriate for the Board or Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with the "cooperating entity" in the development of the annual report etc.
It does not seem an appropriate responsibility of the landowner, although the landowner should certainly be given the opportunity for input if he or she so desires.

Under existing statutes, no public hearing is required for designating lands into the reserves system or for their removal from the system. We note that the bill will require public hearings before the governor revokes or modifies an executive order that sets aside lands for the reserves system or designates new specific types of lands into the reserves system. This can be an appropriate safeguard for lands already in the system but it may create some delays in the designation of new lands. Perhaps some direction in the committee report would be appropriate to encourage prompt attention to the public hearing requirements so that delays will not be experienced in the designation of lands to the natural area reserves and partnership program.