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Statement for Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use Management
Public Hearing - March 21, 1991

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HB 48 H.D. 1 would amend HRS 46 by adding a new section to provide
direct statutory language to improve public access to public shoreline
lands, trails, and various mountain areas for recreational purposes.

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

A long standing problem in the state has been the lack of access to
various types of public lands, whether they be shorelines, trails, or
mountain areas suitable for recreational purposes. Obviously, if the
public can not reach these areas, their recreational, public enjoyment
value is seriously diminished. One can argue that protection of our
environment can only be achieved through public education and recognition
of the importance and value of natural resources. Yet, if the public is
kept from physically visiting and enjoying these resources the public
support for environmental protection/management programs is greatly
hindered.

HB 48 H.D.1 would address this public access issue and assure that new
developments will not close off wilderness and shoreline recreation
opportunities. We strongly support the intent of HB 48 H.D. 1.