REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO COMPILE AND EVALUATE ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE
ISSUE OF HEALTH HAZARDS CREATED BY HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES

Statement for
Senate Committees on
Science, Technology and Economic Development
Health and Human Services
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SR 59 and SCR 69 cite the growing concern about the possible effects of power lines on human health and requests that the Department of Health (DOH) compile and evaluate all information available on this issue of health hazards created by high-voltage transmission lines and to report its findings to the 1992 legislature.

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

We concur with the general intent of these resolutions and note that the issue of possible health effects from high voltage power lines is one of very long standing concern. The Environmental Center has been active in coordinating reviews of this issue almost since the inception of the Center in 1970. Unfortunately, there still appears to be no clear cut answers. Given the long-term public concern for this issue it is certainly appropriate for DOH to make every effort to compile the requested information.

We urge that the compilation be as objective as possible and include information on studies that have shown no health linkage to high voltage
lines as well as those that do. Decisionmakers must have all the facts, especially for issues such as this that seem to have no definitive answers.

If the Department of Health does not have personnel with expertise in this field, then efforts should be made to seek outside assistance.

We have attached copies of two recent publications on this issue. The references cited in these publications reflect the wealth of materials that are available for consideration by the DOH.