



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center

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HB 2847

HB 3343

RELATING TO COUNTY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS AND TREATMENT WORKS
RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY FOR
SEWAGE OUTFALLS AND WASTEWATER RECLAMATION TREATMENT WORKS

House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs

Public Hearing - February 3, 1992
8:00 AM, Rm 1310

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 2847 would add a new section to chapter 103, HRS, specifying priorities for expenditure of public moneys by counties for sewerage systems and treatment works. HB 3343 would similarly address county expenditures for construction of sewage outfalls and wastewater reclamation works.

Our statement on these bills does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Infrastructure development for wastewater management is delegated to the counties. Such delegation appropriately recognizes the site-specific nature of wastewater system design parameters. In implementing sewage systems, the counties must comply with water quality and public health regulations delegated under the Federal Clean Water Act to the state Department of Health. Furthermore, the Clean Water Act, Section 505, includes a citizens suits provision which allows direct intervention by private citizens in the oversight of agencies and private organizations involved in wastewater management. While we appreciate the frustration of many people in the perceived inadequacy of aspects of our wastewater infrastructure, we suggest that the delegation of management authority provided for in these measures is inappropriate and unnecessary.