SB 2950
RELATING TO KANEHOE BAY

Senate Committee on Education

Public Hearing - February 10, 1992
3:00 P.M., Rm. 504, SOT

By
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SB 2950 would establish a six-year research project to address concerns about the effects of watershed urbanization on the Kanehohe Bay ecosystem. An appropriation of $283,000 would be provided for FY 1993-93, and the research project would be administered by the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

This bill appears to have emerged from the deliberations of the Kanehohe Bay Task Force. Much of its substance reflects consensus reached concerning research needs to enhance management of the Bay resources. However, as other testimony probably has indicated, there is substantive disagreement within the university community, in particular over some of the assertions in the bill's preamble.

Such disagreement is not surprising; the bay is quite large and there are many diverse habitats within it, most of which have continued to recover markedly from the sewage-related insults of the sixties and seventies. It is likewise probable that certain stream-related impacts have continued to occur, leading to water quality problems. The extent of disagreement over the substance of the bay's condition probably constitutes the most compelling rationale for the sort of monitoring research proposed by this measure, in that despite the impressive amount of information available for the bay, its complexity is such that our questions still outnumber our answers by a large margin.

A number of the proposed elements of the project appear to be outside of the focus of HIBM. Items (4) and (7) are more appropriately a function of the UH Sea Grant program, and item (8) would significantly overlap research already being conducted by the Main Hawaiian Islands Marine Resources

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