HB 1670
RELATING TO AQUARIUM FISH

House Committees on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Energy and Environmental Protection

Joint Public Hearing – February 4, 1993
9:00 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Coordinator
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

HB 1670 amends Section 188-31, HRS, to specify the need for a permit prior to collecting aquarium fish. The measure further prohibits specific acts of environmental degradation undertaken in the course of aquarium fish collection and provides for appropriate rulemaking authority.

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

While we understand the general context of the proposed amendments, we suggest that in many cases, the suggested language is sufficiently awkward that the intent of the law is somewhat compromised. Apparently, substitution of "fish" and "fishing" for "take" and "taking" reflects the intent that it is the process that needs management, not the actual animal collection. However, "fishing...of aquarium fish" (line 12, page 1) is incorrect grammatically. As a suggested alternative, the "pursuit and/or collection" is more linguistically palatable. Similarly, page 2, line 1, we suggest replacing the word "of" with "for".

It appears that all prior references to "nongame" fish are deleted, so this term may be superfluous (line 1, page 3).