SB 439
RELATING TO A HAWAIIAN FISHPOND RESTORATION PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Agriculture
Public Hearing - February 11, 1993
1:00 P.M., Room 405 SOT

By
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SB 439 would establish a fish pond restoration program within the DLNR and would create a committee of agency representatives, experts, and private citizens to advise the department. An appropriation of $2 million is included for the furtherance of this program.

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

We certainly support the ongoing efforts of the DLNR and the Governor’s task force to address the goals of the proposed program. However, the frequent expressions of frustration with permitting red tape which have been voiced cause us concern. The permit complexity has arisen from the overlap of federal, state, and local jurisdiction that occurs at the shoreline. Such overlap, in turn, reflects the fragility as well as the cultural and economic importance of this region. Even with the present array of permits, development pressures have resulted in shoreline and nearshore degradation. While fishpond restoration is desirable and worthy, from a regulatory perspective, you can’t have it both ways. Environmental management must be consistent, and decisionmaking must be made on a site specific basis. With that caveat, we fully support the intent of this measure.