HB 51
RELATING TO FISHING

House Committee on Judiciary
Public Hearing - February 25, 1993
2:00 P.M., Room 802 SOT

By
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HB 51 would amend Chapter 188, HRS to make it illegal to possess or use a gill net in an embayment, estuary, or marine life conservation district in the state.

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

Our reviewers note that the term, "gill net" apparently is undefined in Chapter 188, HRS. Particular aspects of issues addressed by this measure might be resolved through attention to details such as size of mesh, length of set, and particularly the requirement for checking the net every two hours at a minimum. However, such details more appropriately are dealt with at a regulatory level.

We note that the substance of this measure conforms to recommendations adopted pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 442 passed during the 1992 Legislature. Given the need for more effective management of nearshore fishery resources and the specter of a possible lawsuit under the federal Endangered Species Act, we strongly concur with the intent of this measure.