HB 687
RELATING TO ALA WAI CANAL

Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use Management

Public Hearing - March 16, 1993
3:00 P.M., Room 405 SOT

By
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HB 687 would appropriate $500,000 for the design and
development of specifications for dredging Ala Wai Canal.

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

The requested funds are for development of engineering
specifications preliminary to a periodic, recurrent dredging of the
Ala Wai Canal which was last undertaken in 1978. This maintenance
requirement reflects the underlying purpose of the Canal which is
to function as a flood control facility for the protection of
adjacent coastal lowlands including Waikiki. To the degree that
periodic dredging is required, the canal is also fulfilling one of
its design intents, which is the interception of sediments which
otherwise would have contaminated coastal ocean waters off Waikiki.
The dredging is necessary and not unexpected, but the proposed
funding probably is not needed, because specifications required for
the dredging already exist. As part of the Ala Wai Improvement
Study funded during the past legislature, comprehensive and
detailed surveys were undertaken of the entire length of the canal.
Among other data produced were detailed profiles of the existing
sediment distribution which, when compared with engineering
specifications of prior dredging events, would yield the exact
information needed for the present dredging. We suggest that the
proposed appropriation should be directed towards the needed
dredging, and not for the duplication of existing information.

We note that the funds requested herein are in no way related
to other funding requests which address proposals for
implementation of the Ala Wai Improvement project.