MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PILOT, THREE PHASE VIDEOGRAPHIC STUDY OF SHORELINE DELINEATIONS

House Committee on Water and Land Use

Public Hearing - February 13, 1993 1:30 P.M., Room 1310 SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Charles Fletcher, Geology and Geophysics
Kem Lowry, Urban and Regional Planning

HB 136 would appropriate funds to the DLNR for implementation of a pilot program to develop a videographic method for shoreline determinations.

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

While current shoreline determination practices are the subject of concern due to conflicts which arise during their deliberations, our reviewers generally oppose the ideas presented in this measure. Our major concern is that the proposed methodology is untested and subject to possible distortion, and there is an existing, well documented alternate methodology which is proven. Unfortunately, the state presently uses its own methods, based primarily on debris and vegetation lines which are subject to error and human influence. Given the crucial importance of our beach resources and the known instability of shorelines, we find it incredible that the state has failed to devote concerted efforts towards development of a comprehensive, long term management program similar to that found in other states. Florida, for instance has for 30 years maintained a program employing 3,500 permanent cement monuments erected at intervals around the state which are resurveyed every 3 months. As a result, they have an impressive data base and concomitant understanding of long term trends in shoreline movements which are invaluable planning and management prerequisites. If the legislature is to spend money in this area, emulating the Florida program should be paramount.