SB 2024 SD 1 proposes to establish an Ocean Resources Management (ORM) program. Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Given the importance of ocean resources to the State of Hawaii, the establishment of a Chapter in the Hawaii Revised Statutes specifically setting forth ocean and resource management policy, a coordinating agency, and the personnel and direction for developing an ocean resources management plan is highly appropriate.

We note with approval the expression of State policy to "exercise an overall conservation ethic in the use of Hawaii's ocean resources." However, we are concerned that the heavy emphasis placed on ocean resources development will supersede sound environmental and resource management principles. Short-term economic benefits from exploitative resource development strategies may be substantial, but they must be judiciously weighed against their potentially deleterious consequences over the longer term. To assure sustainable, and hopefully enhanced, ocean resources will require establishing a critical balance between short-term gains and long-term uses. The effectiveness of the plan in achieving this critical balance will depend on the individuals chosen to serve on the task force advisory committee. In this regard, we are pleased to note the breadth of expertise represented by the proposed members.

We note that environmental issues must be given appropriate recognition and consideration in accordance with the policy statements of Section 1 and are specifically mandated for inclusion in the management plan on page 17,
paragraph (F). We believe that the experience, expertise, and coordination capabilities of the UH Environmental Center in marine environmental affairs would contribute substantially to this task force and therefore suggest that the UH Environmental Center be considered as an addition to the list of University programs, departments, and institutes to be included on the task force advisory committee.

SB 2024 SD 1 establishes the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) as the primary agency for coordinating the Ocean Resources Management Plan. As noted earlier, a need for balance exists between resource development interests and resource management considerations. In view of the economic development orientation of DBED, it would seem more appropriate to designate the Office of State Planning (OSP) as the lead agency for implementing the Ocean Resources Management Plan. Furthermore, other ocean management programs, specifically the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program might be more appropriately housed under the OSP to avoid potentially conflicting interests. Certainly CZM and the ORM should be under the same direction.

Finally, we note on page 14, section 12(3), that provisions are made for analysis of state laws, rules, authorities, etc. Given that Federal regulations in many instances supercede or mandate state regulatory provisions in the realm of ocean jurisdiction, it should be specified that the analyses called for in this section be considered in the context of the Federal regulatory environment also.