SB 2295 SD 1
RELATING TO WILDLIFE

House Committee on
Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing - March 18, 1988

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SB 2295 SD 1 would establish a revolving wildlife fund within the State Treasury to receive monies collected from fees for hunting licenses, fines related to illegal possession of game and wildlife, or other monies collected as fines for violations of this chapter or Chapter 195D concerning wildlife conservation.

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

The use of funds collected in the course of enforcement of wildlife management programs for study, research, education, conservation and management of wildlife seems entirely reasonable and we support the intent of this bill. The wildlife revolving fund under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) would have several advantages. First, it would permit carry over of the funds from year to year and thereby offer ongoing support of wildlife management programs. Second, under DLNR, the money may be more accessible in times of emergencies and thereby provide the opportunity for quicker response, such as in the event of a disease outbreak. Finally, having the fund housed close to the expending agency may be more efficient.

We have, however, one suggestion that relates to the concerns voiced by the DLNR as expressed in the Standing Committee Report No. 1706. Their concern involved the possible conflict between the permitted uses of Pittman-Robertson funds and the proposed uses of the revolving fund for enforcement and management. If this concern has not yet been resolved, perhaps a severability clause to the effect that if any provisions of this chapter or the application thereof are held to be in conflict with permitted uses of Pittman-Robertson funds, to the extent that receipt of
Pittman-Robertson funds are jeopardized, then such provisions shall be held invalid and such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application; and to this end, the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.