



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 1498  
RELATING TO THE ERADICATION OF BANANA POKA

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture and Environment  
Public Hearing - February 14, 1989

By  
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SB 1498 recognizes the extremely serious threat to state forest reserves and watersheds posed by the weedy vine, banana poka (Passiflora molissima). This highly invasive and destructive weed has now become established on a relatively small (nine acre) parcel of land on Maui. SB 1498 would provide funds for the immediate manual eradication of this noxious weed on Maui. Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We strongly support the intent of SB 1498. Immediate action is essential if the spread of this noxious pest into the forests and Natural Area Reserves on Maui is to be stopped. Time is of the essence. The relatively modest area presently infested can be cleared of this weed manually ...if...immediate action is initiated. Any delay will not just increase the costs of future eradication programs, it is likely to make them impossible to achieve.