



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:00835

SR 164
REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE ISSUANCE OF
DECLARATORY RULINGS BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Statement for
Senate Committees on
Tourism, Recreation and Planning
and
Agriculture
Public Hearing - April 11, 1989

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
John Harrison, Environmental Center
Peter J. Rappa, Sea Grant

SR 164 requests the Office of State Planning to study the issues causing uncertainty over the authority of the Environmental Council to issue declaratory rulings on the applicability of statutory provisions of the environmental impact statement law and to report to the 1990 legislature on its findings and recommendations.

As cited in the various Whereas clauses, uncertainty as to the authority of the Environmental council to issue Declaratory Rulings presents a serious administrative deficiency in the present environmental management process. The requested study by the Office of State Planning to identify issues relevant to the Environmental Council's authority to issue declaratory rulings should greatly improve the efficiency and environmental management options in the state. Furthermore, the development by the neutral Office of State Planning of the requested specific legislative amendments or other means to mitigate the uncertainties should assure that this long standing issue is finally resolved. The Environmental Center will be please to assist the Office of State Planning in the requested study.