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HB 2725 RELATING TO IMPORTED BIRDS

Statement for
House Committee on
Agriculture
Public Hearing - February 7, 1990

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HB 2725 calls attention to the reduction in wild bird populations that can be attributed to the illegal export of these birds to the "exotic bird" market in the United States. The purpose of this bill is to amend HRS 142 to impose specific restrictions on the importation of wild birds into Hawaii.

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

We concur with the intent of this bill, however, we do have a question with regard to the effectiveness of the proposed amendment.

We note that the present amendment would prohibit the sale of any bird normally found in the wild state unless the person files, with the Department of Agriculture, a certificate of health and notarized documentation from the breeder's veterinarian that the bird has been raised in captivity. The bill does not say that the veterinarian must certify that the bird was bred in captivity. An amendment is needed to require that the bird be both bred and raised in captivity otherwise, young birds may continue to be taken in the wild, raised in captivity, and exported thus defeating the purpose of the bill.