HB 2137-84
RELATING TO CERTAIN AQUATIC LIFE

Statement for
House Committees on
Water, Land Use, Development, and Hawaiian Affairs
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - 17 February 1984

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HB 2137 would add a new section to the laws on fishing rights and regulations, HRS 188. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The new section of HRS 188 proposed in the bill would, in essence, ban commercial taking of the molluscs hihiwai and hapa-wai.

There is some commercial taking of hihiwai, but such taking is small relative to taking for personal use. There seems to be available no data to indicate definitively that the taking exceeds the sustainable yield. In the case of hapa-wai, if there is commercial taking, is small, but hapa-wai may perhaps sometimes be confused with the smaller hihiwai. Banning of commercial taking of both molluscs would tend to reduce the possibility of excess taking.

If this purpose justifies the proposed ban on commercial takings of the two types of mollusc, the bill should be corrected with respect to the scientific nomenclature. Hihiwai is identified in the bill (in parenthesis) as "neritina." Neritina is a generic name that should be capitalized. Hapa-wai is identified (in parenthesis) as "neritina vesperinus." The actual species is Theodoxus vesperinus.