SCR 130
REQUESTING REVIEW OF THE FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

Statement for
House Committee on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 17 April 1984

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SCR 130 would request that the Legislative Auditor's Office, in cooperation with the Wildlife Management Institute, review the program of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This statement on the resolution does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The resolution implies, in essence, that with a change of organization of the Department, the chain of command, personnel assignments, and job descriptions have become less than ideal with respect to the combined responsibilities of the Division to facilitate the development of commercial forestry and to provide for wildlife management. Because there are inescapable incompatibilities between the two functions, it would be surprising if the performance of the Division were not subject to criticism, and we understand that the Department is not adverse to review of the Division. The primary question, then, relates to the advantage of involving the Wildlife Management Institute in the review.

As recognized in the resolution, this Institute has provided advice in such matters to a large number of other states. It would be surprising, therefore, if the Institute did not have some suggestions that would be found useful in Hawaii. We would like to point out that, even if the Institute were to agree that the present arrangements and plans of the Division were appropriate, greater weight would be given to those arrangements and plans by the confirmation of their appropriateness by an out-of-state but knowledgeable body.

We see considerable merit in the resolution.