SB 1191
RELATING TO STATE PARKS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Tourism
Public Hearing - 22 February 1985

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

SB 1191 recognizes the need for greater security services at State Parks in Hawaii and, to meet that need, proposes to establish a Park Ranger program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources by amendment to Chapter HRS 199. Our statement on the bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We concur with the need for greater security in the State parks and with the establishment of a State Park Ranger Corps to provide for this additional security, and we believe that there may be need for an appropriation in support of the Ranger Corps as would be provided under SB 1191. However, we do not believe that the State Park Rangers Corps should be a body distinct from that of the conservation and Resources Enforcement Officers for which provision is already made in HRS Section 199-3.

Because the title Park Ranger is one with which the public is quite familiar, we suggest that, rather than providing for the establishment of a State Park Ranger Corps by adding a new section of HRS Chapter 199, Section 199-3 should be amended to change the title of the Enforcement Officers to Park Rangers and to change the scope of their responsibilities to those proposed for the Park Rangers. The nucleus of the Park Ranger Corps thus established should be expanded as necessary to cope with the security problem. We consider that the addition of educational and public informational responsibilities to those of the Park Rangers would be appropriate and important to the generation of an appropriate Park Ranger image.