HB 1547
RELATING TO FISHING REGULATIONS

Statement for
Ocean and Marine Resource
Public Hearing - 28 February 1985

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HB 1547 would relax two limitations placed on fishing by bullpen traps in HRS Section 188.5. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The present law provides that the length of bullpen traps may not be more than 750 feet and that the traps may not be left in place more than 12 hours. HB 1547 would allow the use of such traps with lengths up to 2000 feet and allow the traps to remain in place for up to 14 hours. We note that bullpen traps catch all fish moving across the reef, and interfere with recreational use of reef areas. In our opinion, neither the use of traps of greater length nor their emplacement over longer periods of time should be allowed. In particular, the nearly 170 percent increase in length of traps that would be permitted by HB 1547 would result in serious additional depletion of already depleted reef fish resources.