



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0535

HB 711 RELATING TO FISH AND GAME

Statement for
House Committees on
Water, Land Use, Development, and Hawaiian Affairs
and
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 1 March 1985

By
Sheila Conant, General Science
Doak C. Cox, Director
Charles Lamoureux, Botany
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

HB 711 would abolish the Animal Species Advisory Commission that now advises the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on the importation of exotic animals, but would apply to such importations the provisions of the State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Law. This statement on the bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The use of the Animal Species Commission by DLNR has in the past been considered inadequate by some persons, and the Commission has been considered to some to be over representative of hunting and fishing interests. However the Commission has provided for useful discussion of the relative importance of increasing the variety of animal species subject to commercial use or recreational hunting or fishing, and of the environmental detriments that might accompany the introductions of new species. To some extent the purposes served by the Commission might be served by analyzing the provisions of the EIS law to importation of animal species. However, this application, where it is not now required, would be unduly cumbersome and yet would not provide the same kind of interchange of information and opinion that is provided in the deliberation of the Commission.

In summary, we consider unwise the proposed abolishment of the Animal Species Advisory Commission.