Both SR 44 and SCR 34 relate to what is called the Tri-Fly control program that has been proposed to attempt to eradicate the Mediterranean, Oriental, and Melon fruit flies in Hawaii so as to reduce the risk of their introduction into California. SCR would resolve that the State of Hawaii oppose the tri-fly program as it has been proposed by the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). SR 44 would resolve that state agencies cooperate with APHIS in a tri-fly control program, but that the Legislature oppose certain aspects of the program as it has been proposed. This statement on the two resolutions does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Both resolutions appropriately recognize in their various "whereas" clauses many of the current concerns with the plan to eradicate the fruit flies as it has been proposed by APHIS. A joint federal/state EIS being prepared by the APHIS is currently undergoing review and the final document will not be completed for several more weeks. Many of the serious environmental concerns associated with the proposed program and the widespread spraying that would be a part of it are addressed in the draft of this EIS, including the potential undesirable impacts on beneficial non-target species, pollinators, and birds. Recent pesticide contamination problems in the state make the widespread use of malathion that is proposed especially unpalatable to the public and scientific community alike.

The widespread spraying would have drastic repercussions on existing native species and biological control agents as well as unknown health implications. The possibility of failure of the program in Hawaii due to the rugged terrain, the possibility of introduction of the fruit flies to the mainland from areas other than Hawaii, and the tremendous costs that the eradication would entail, reflect a poor chance of success for the tri-fly control program in terms of its ultimate purpose, and a commensurate poor trade off between possible benefits and significant high costs.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
We note that the tri-fly control program as outlined in the "whereas" statements of SR 44 is an eradication program that would attempt to eliminate the three primary species (there is a fourth species which has recently become established in Hawaii) of fruit flies from the State of Hawaii. The resolution, however, seeks to control the tri-fly problem through means other than statewide spraying. While we are in agreement that the widespread aerial spraying with malathion and the indiscriminate use of naled or diazinon that have been proposed should not be permitted, there are other concerns which should be considered prior to adoption of SR 44. Support for those aspects of the tri-fly eradication program which do not involve widespread aerial spraying implies that current state-of-the-art biological control technologies will clearly be successful in eliminating the fruit flies of concern. While ongoing research is certainly leading in this direction, there are many questions which remain, and further research in the areas of behavioral ecology, genetic engineering, and other biological control technologies would provide a solid foundation upon which more effective control programs might be developed.

SCR 34, on the other hand, seeks to postpone implementation of the proposed tri-fly eradication plan while encouraging federal support of research in genetics, behavior, and biological control of pest infestations of important agricultural products. There is at the University of Hawaii expertise relating to the conduct of these kinds of research and there is the potential for the University of Hawaii together with the State Department of Agriculture to serve as a primary international center for the development of pest control technologies that are environmentally safe and specific to the target organisms. The encouragement of strategic research in understanding the basic biology of the tri-fly species that would be provided by SCR 34 is particularly pertinent, since considerable research must still be accomplished before the Sterile Insect Release Method (SIRM) can be effective.