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RL:0558

HB 2281
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Statement for
House Committees on
Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Affairs
and
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - February 7, 1986

By
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HB 2281 proposes two additions to the list of categories of actions for which assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) system is required by HRS 343-5 (a). This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The first proposed additional category is reclassifications of land now classified conservation. Uses of lands in the conservation district are actions for which assessment is already required by HRS 343-5 (a), and the courts have held that, by implication, reclassifications of conservation land require assessment also. The addition in this case would thus constitute no more than appropriate statutory recognition of a present requirement.

The second proposed additional category covers introductions of plants, animals, insects, or microorganisms that might survive and promulgate in the wild in Hawaii. Such introductions now require assessment if they require the expenditure of state or county funds but not otherwise, even if they require state permits. The proposed addition seems quite in keeping with the purposes of the EIS system.



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SB 1839
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Economic Development
Public Hearing - February 20, 1986

The attached statement on HB 2281 is equally applicable to the companion bill, SB 1839.