ENFORCEMENT OF FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Statement for
Senate Committee
Government Operations
Public Hearing - April 15, 1986

By
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SR 94 and SCR 69 would urge that state and county agencies enforce regulations relating to flood plain management so as to avoid suspension of the State's participation in federal flood plain management program. This statement on the resolutions does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The federal flood plain management program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). The management is primarily in terms of the horizontal and vertical extents of 100-year stream floods and of the coastal flooding by 100-year events such as tsunamis. Maps of the 100-year flood extents have been prepared for FEMA under a Corps of Engineers program.

Flaws in early flood management plans have been found by various research units of the University and corrected in the present management program. There is no assurance that additional flaws will not be found in the program in the future. However, the existing program is, without question, the best now available, and the federal subsidy of flood insurance to which reference is made in the resolutions will not be available in Hawaii unless responsible state and county agencies enforce the regulations called for in the program.

Any deficiencies in the enforcement should be remedied promptly in accordance with the resolutions.