HB 1386
OCEAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - February 27, 1987

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HB 1386 would establish a central authority to coordinate the variety of ocean-related activities in the State. The statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

While we concur with the findings and purpose statement to the extent that many state agencies have ocean related responsibilities and that no central authority presently exists to coordinate these efforts, we are not in complete agreement that the establishment of a central authority as is proposed by HB 1386 is appropriate at this time.

We suggest that the committee consider redrafting HB 1386 in the form of a resolution and request the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management program to review and advise, by next legislative session, on the need for such a new central authority for Ocean Resource Management. Since Coastal Zone Management already serves to coordinate with multiple agencies on marine related affairs in the coastal zone, it may be appropriate to consider expanding their focus rather than establishing a new authority.