House bill 1486 is but one of at least three, almost identical bills introduced this session that proposes to add new sections and several amendments to existing sections of HRS Chapter 340-E relating to Safe Drinking Water. The first additional section deals with penalties for tampering with public water systems, the second provides for inspection of premises and the third establishes certain prohibitions and restrictions in the use of lead in public water systems. Further amendments would modify the notification procedures in the event of quality problems with public water systems and would prohibit certain acts by the supplier and establish penalties and remedies for violations of this section.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

In general the additions and most of the amendments proposed reflect necessary changes in the statutes to bring HRS 340-E into compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of June, 1986. We concur with the intent of the bill, however, there is one point about which we, at least, are unclear. The Justification Sheet attached to HB 1486 refers to additional funds that will be needed to carry out the "substantial increase in the workload of the Drinking Water Program of the DOH" The Sheet cites additional funding as being attached to the measure. However, we have seen no indication that such an increase in funding will be provided. We certainly concur that an increase in budget and staffing at the Department of Health is needed to handle the regulation and compliance monitoring necessary to effectively carry out the responsibilities of Chapter 340-E.
The Environmental Center submitted comments on the companion bill HB 1486. A copy of our statement is enclosed as the comments remain applicable to SB 324 SD 1. We are in concurrence with most of the findings of the Standing Committee Report No. 295 with one significant exception.

The added responsibility and increase in workload that will be necessary to carry out the provisions of this bill will require additional financial support. We strongly urge that an appropriation sufficient to fulfill the provisions of this bill be included in the bill.

Enclosure
The Environmental Center submitted the enclosed testimony on companion bills, HB 1486 and SB 324 SD 1 at the hearings of March 2 and 6, 1987 respectively.

The concerns expressed in our earlier statements remain pertinent to HB 1486 HD 1. We concur with the amendments proposed in HB 1486 HD 1 that would broaden the scope of the bill to make it illegal to introduce a contaminant into an aquifer and we stress the need for appropriations sufficient to fulfill the provisions of this bill.

Attachments