HR 137 requests the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of the Department of Health (DOH), to study the feasibility for the design and construction of livestock staging areas in the State of Hawaii. Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The Environmental Center has submitted revised testimony on a related bill, HB 512, in which we call attention to the need for caution in the location of livestock holding pens so as to avoid contamination of adjacent waters. The assistance of the DOH as provided in HR 137 is appropriate and would address this concern.

We wish to call your attention to one significant omission in HR 137. There is no provision for Department of Agriculture (DOA) involvement or participation in this study. We believe that this is a serious omission and that the expertise of the DOA should surely be included in any such study.