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RL:0210

SB 18

RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE RANGER DIVISION

Statement for
Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing, 2 March 1977

by
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SB 18 would amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes to replace certain sections dealing with the conservation enforcement powers of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which are now spread among several divisions of the Department, with a new chapter establishing a State Ranger Division in DLNR, in which the conservation enforcement powers would be concentrated. This statement on the bill has been prepared on the basis of an earlier Environmental Center review of a similar bill. The current statement is being submitted for review to contributors of the earlier statement as well as to the legislative subcommittee of the Environmental Center. The statement does not, however, reflect an institutional position of the University.

SB 2912-SD1 (1976) proposed to accomplish the same purposes as SB 18. The Environmental Center reviewed SB 2912-SD1 in December 1976 for this Committee (RL:0192, 2 December 1976). Contributing to that review were A. D. Burhans and Rashid Ahmed of the Environmental Center, Ruth Gay of the Botany Department, and A. J. Berger of the Zoology Department of the University. In that earlier review, we commented on the advantages of the consolidation of the enforcement powers of DLNR. It appears that every suggestion that we made with respect to the improvement of SB 2912-SD1 has been adopted in the drafting of SB 18 except one.

Subsection 171-8 (a) (3) of Hawaii Environmental Laws and Regulations provides that DLNR may employ assistant foresters as well as forest rangers. This subsection would be deleted in its entirety in the amendment of Sec. 171-8 proposed in Section 2 of SB 18. The forest rangers would be replaced by the rangers called for in Section 1 of the bill. However, the assistant foresters would not be replaced. In our comments on 2912-SD1 we stated: "In addition to the enforcement activities, which will be performed by the (rangers), there are professional forestry activities, the whole of which cannot be expected to be performed by the superintendent of forestry. It would seem that the authority to appoint assistant foresters should not be deleted."

We suggest that DLNR be consulted on the advisability of deleting the provision on assistant foresters.

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