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SB 916

RELATING TO STATE PARKS

Statement for
Senate Committee on Inter-Government Relations
Public Hearing 2 March 1977

by

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SB 916 would amend three sections of Chapter 184 Hawaii Revised Statutes that relate to State Parks. This statement is being submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii, but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

Section 1 of the bill would amend the definition of "State Park System" in HRS 184-1. The definition now provided is based on the definition of "Park", also provided in that section. The proposed amendment which would define the system as "parks and roadways designated by the department as game management areas, wildlife preserves or forest areas." This proposed definition is inconsistent with both present usage and common meanings. Neither parks nor roadways are designated by DLNR as game management areas, wildlife preserves, and forest reserves, and the purposes of establishing such areas are different from the purposes of establishing state parks. Any attempt to combine these several kinds of conservation areas for management as if their designation had identical objectives is bound to confuse the administration of government-controlled conservation lands.

Section 2 of the bill would amend HRS 184-2 in such a way as to facilitate transfers of land between the state park system and county park system. We offer no opinion on the principle involved, but the means proposed involves reference to the proposed revised definition of "state park system," and hence are inappropriate as now described.

Section 3 of the bill would provide for DLNR support of county park systems. We offer no opinion on this provision.