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HB 1425 and SB 1274
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Statement for
Senate Committee on Judiciary
and
House Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection
and
House Committee on Health
Public Hearing 11 March 1977

by
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L. Stephen Lau, Water Resources Research Center

HB 1425 and SB 1274 would identically amend Section 342-32 of Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to the pollution control authority of the Department of Health. This statement has been submitted for review to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

HB 1425 and SB 1274 would provide that the State Department of Health must publish comprehensive annual reports on the quality of the waters of the State.

Such reports would be useful, and the utility may justify the expenditure of effort by the Department, even though this will reduce its direct pollution control efforts. It should be recognized, however, that the intent of their publication is already met, at least in part, through the contributions of the Department to the annual report of the Environmental Council.

Where special interpretation of the significance of water quality may be needed that is beyond the staff competence of the Department, we believe the Department has authority to seek outside competence.