REQUESTING RETURN OF SURPLUS MILITARY LANDS FOR CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES

Statement for Senate Committee on Military and Civil Defense Public Hearing 7 April 1977

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SR 24 and SCR 6 are identical resolutions which would request the Department of Defense to continue analysis on military land requirements in Hawaii and to involve the community in such analysis for the purpose of maintaining the smallest land inventory consistent with defense needs and returning to public use all unneeded lands. This statement is being submitted to the Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

SR 24 and SCR 6 are modest requests asking for a continuation of land inventory by the military and including public input in such analysis. This request seems appropriate given the rapidly diminishing public land supply in Hawaii and the large fraction of that land held by the military, a substantial portion of which may be unused or underutilized to its full potential. It would certainly seem to be in the public interest to pursue concern in the possible return of idle lands to the State for use in recreation, conservation and agriculture.