SB 1738

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A SURVEY OF THE PUAKO REEF AREA FOR CONSIDERATION AS A MARINE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Statement for the Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation Public Hearing 21 February 1978

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SB 1738 would appropriate the sum of $30,000 for a survey of the Puako reef area, South Kohala, Hawaii, for the purpose of designating that area as a Marine Conservation District. This statement does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

In the opinion of the Environmental Center, such a survey would be appropriate. There is insufficient data on near shore processes in most parts of the State. More specifically, the Puako area is unique because it contains the best-developed reef on the Big Island. Other reefs on the Big Island are only in their incipient stages. The Puako area also contains numerous shoreline pools which are unusual.

This site has been selected by the Department of Health as one of the areas for monitoring benthic or ocean bottom life because of its near natural condition. A baseline survey in this area could be used to document future changes as human impacts increase. Traditionally, baseline surveys have been done in areas already impacted by human development.

Valid data is essential for proper management of areas like Puako Reef. The survey proposed by SB 1738 would provide this data.