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HR 331 and HCR 69
SUPPORTING S. 1820, THE NATURAL DIVERSITY ACT

Statement for the
House Committees on
Ecology and Environmental Protection,
Energy and Transportation, and
Water, Land Use Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing 28 March 1978

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HR 331 and HCR 69 encourages the passage of S. 1820 proposing a federal Natural Diversity Act. This statement on the resolutions reflect the concerns of the Environmental Center with the preservation of the diverse natural environments of Hawaii but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The geographic setting of the Hawaiian Islands has resulted in a greater diversity of natural environments and biota than any other area of remotely comparable size in the United States. In comments we have provided to the Congressional subcommittees considering S. 1820, we pointed out that considerable loss of endemic birds and plants have already occurred and more are threatened. Even geologic features have disappeared or been seriously marred. There is, therefore, special reason for concern with providing at least samples of what is left with the natural diversity of these islands. The very magnitude of the conservation effort needed in Hawaii makes it difficult for the State to meet the needs. Since the concern is appropriately a wider one, the federal support of the effort that would be provided under S. 1820 would be of considerable assistance.

The promotion of uniformity is the aim or at least the unintended result of most federal legislation. It is refreshing to see in S. 1820 the recognition of the importance of diversity.

We agree with the premise in HR 331 and HCR 69 that the purpose of S. 1820 is worthy and that the State of Hawaii will benefit greatly from it, and consider the passage of one of these resolutions quite appropriate.