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SR 198 and SCR 219
REQUESTING SUPPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE
SLUDGE TO OIL REACTOR SYSTEM FOR HAWAII

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Hearing - April 12, 1989

By
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SR 198 and SCR 219 requests that appropriate legislative consideration be given to the Sludge to Oil Reactor System (STORS) process for Hawaii and that possible funding be appropriated for studies when and if a test site is available in Hawaii.

Our statement on these resolutions does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The intent of this resolution is to gain legislative consideration for a specific, privately owned, system of sludge processing. Since there are many methods of sludge processing some of which may be just as effective and far more appropriate to Hawaii's tropical conditions, we cannot support the intent of this resolution.

The second and third whereas clauses are very misleading. They imply that Hawaii is disposing of waste sludge by ocean dumping. Hawaii does not dump sludge into the open ocean, and there are no plans to do so.

As part of the justification for this resolution, the eighth whereas clause cites plans by a Chicago county to treat 10 million gallons of raw sewage per day in a STORS demonstration plant. We suggest that consideration be given to deleting this whereas clause. It seems unlikely that the economic or environmental characteristics of such a facility in Chicago will have application or relevance to decisions on optimum wastewater treatment or sludge disposal systems in Hawaii.

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We believe that a more meaningful and appropriate resolution would request a study of various alternative sludge processing methods, including the STORS technology, to ascertain their feasibility and appropriateness for use in Hawaii.