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SB 1665
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ASSESS THE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE
OF THE HEEIA WETLANDS AND STREAM

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use Management
Public Hearing - February 12, 1991

By
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Robert Kinzie, Zoology
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit

SB 1665 would appropriate funds for assessing the cost of cleaning and maintenance of the Heeia Wetlands and stream of debris and overgrowth.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii

The Environmental Center has prepared testimony on a related bill, SB 1688, wherein we suggested that the committee report might wish to call attention to the need to minimize destruction of stream and wetland habitats beyond that necessary for adequate flood control. This issue is of special concern in the case of the Heeia Wetlands where endangered water birds are known to occur. The extent of the proposed "cleaning and maintenance" for the "wetlands" is not specified in the bill and should be indicated given the special concern of the windward residents for these areas.

We recognize the need for and encourage regular, periodic maintenance of streams and flood plains so as to reduce the need for massive cleanings under emergency situations. However, there is no indication in the bill for any need to consider environmental issues when assessing the costs of clearing. Recognition is needed, perhaps in the committee report, of the need for due consideration of the environment.