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HR 427

REQUESTING REVIEW OF BARBERS POINT LAND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

Statement for
House Committee on Energy and Transportation
Public Hearing 21 March 1978

by
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

HR 427 requests review of a land-exchange agreement involved in the establishment of a deep-draft harbor at Barber's Point, Oahu. This statement deals solely with a premise concerning the environmental impacts of the harbor expressed in the resolution. The statement does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

It is a premise of the resolution that environmental impact studies have been completed on the Barber's Point Harbor. It is true that two EIS's have been issued for the harbor. However, the earlier federal EIS did not provide estimates of the extent of two natural hazards, surges and tsunamis, and totally ignored the secondary impacts of the harbor. The federal EIS study might be considered complete in that the EIS has been accepted, although federal studies of the natural hazards are still in progress. In contrast, the subsequent state EIS has not been accepted, and a number of questions raised in its review will presumably have to be answered before the EIS is considered acceptable.

The premise that the environmental impact studies have been completed is not valid.