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SCR 96
AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION BY LEASE OF CERTAIN SUBMERGED LANDS
AND LANDS BENEATH TIDAL WATERS OF THE STATE

Statement for Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
April 11, 1990

By
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The resolves of this resolution authorize various entities of the state government to dispose of certain submerged lands in Honolulu Harbor for the purpose of reclamation of these lands in accordance with the Aloha Tower Development Plan.

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

While not so specifically stated, we assume that the hashed line area shown on the map of Honolulu Harbor attached to SCR 96 represents the submerged land area for "reclamation" in accordance with the first be it resolved clause. We also interpret the term "reclamation" to mean "filled". Assuming that these interpretations are correct we offer the following comments for consideration in your decision making on SCR 96.

Extention of the present fast land area adjacent to 9, 10, 11, and 12 as shown on the map attached to SCR 96, will reduce the width of the entry access to the eastern section of Honolulu Harbor by almost 50 percent. We would expect this reduction to significantly affect the circulation and hence the water quality of this section of the harbor and may also affect the tidal exchange and water quality of Nuuanu Stream.

Consideration must also be given to the effects of the reduced harbor entrance on ship traffic and navigational safety. Furthermore, it is important to know if the smaller entrance will eliminate or restrict certain on going barge, fishing, freight or passenger uses in this area.

The potential effects of this filling should be fully assessed prior to the states entering into any non-revocable, binding commitments of submerged lands for reclamation.