



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## SB 2641 SD 1 RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION

Senate Committee on  
Planning Energy and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - February 26, 1988

By  
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SB 2641 SD 1 would amend HRS Section 342-32 by adding a new section, to require the director of health to test and assess any water subjected to an oil spill or other form of pollution as to its quality, potability, effect on aquatic and other life, and potential hazard for human consumption.

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

This bill appears to require that environmental studies of water and aquatic and other life, be conducted whenever "an oil spill or any other form of water pollution" occurs. It does not appear to allow for discretion by the director in such cases where the magnitude, location or type of pollution is unlikely to have a significant effect on either the uses or quality of the receiving waters or the biota. Furthermore, as presently drafted, this bill would require additional field sampling and laboratory analyses that require laboratory facilities not now available at the department of health. Additional funding may be needed by the Department of Health to contract with private laboratories for the necessary services.

We support the intent of this bill as it relates to the protection of the environment and specifically to human health by testing and assessing the potential hazards associated with the consumption of affected biota. However, amendments to recognize the need for discretionary action by the Director of Health in sampling and analyses, as well as necessary funds to carry out the directives, should be considered.