



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

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HR 519
REQUESTING A REPORT ON ENERGY CONSERVATION SYSTEMS
AND DEVICES INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN PLANS
AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW STATE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Statement for
House Committees on
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Employment and Government Operations
Public Hearing - 10 April 1981

By
Richard Neill, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Alexis Cheong Linder, Environmental Center
Garret Kawamura, Environmental Center

HR 519 requests that the State Controller submit a comprehensive report on energy conservation systems and devices to be included in the design plans and specifications for new state buildings. The Environmental Center statement on HR 519 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

A cautious correlation must be drawn in consideration of energy and cost savings to be incurred from energy conservation systems and devices. Initially, one is tempted to assume that a simple, positive correlation exists between the two, i.e., the larger the dividend returned that could be attributed to energy conservation devices the more valuable and "worthwhile" the device is determined to be. However, other cost-factors must be considered in this equation such as the "life-expectancy" of the building, its intended use and alternative uses, the types of energy conservation systems and devices to be utilized within the building as well as alternate systems and devices. On the basis of these considerations we urge that energy-efficient building designs be adopted based on life-cycle cost analyses which examine alternate conservation systems. The report requested in HR 519 should be coordinated with the comprehensive review of the state's energy conservation program proposed in HR 375, HD 1.