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HB 687

RELATING TO ALA WAI CANAL

House Committee on
Water and Land Use Planning

Public Hearing - February 13, 1993

1:00 P.M., Room 1310 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Hans-Jurgen Krock, Look Laboratory and Ocean Engineering
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center

HB 687 would appropriate \$500,000 for the design and development of specifications for dredging Ala Wai Canal.

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

The requested funds are for development of engineering specifications preliminary to a periodic, recurrent dredging of the Ala Wai Canal which was last undertaken in 1978. This maintenance requirement reflects the underlying purpose of the Canal which is to function as a flood control facility for the protection of adjacent coastal lowlands including Waikiki. To the degree that periodic dredging is required, the canal is also fulfilling one of its design intents, which is the interception of sediments which otherwise would have contaminated coastal ocean waters off Waikiki. The dredging is necessary and not unexpected, but the proposed funding probably is not needed, because specifications required for the dredging already exist. As part of the Ala Wai Improvement Study funded during the past legislature, comprehensive and detailed surveys were undertaken of the entire length of the canal. Among other data produced were detailed profiles of the existing sediment distribution which, when compared with engineering specifications of prior dredging events, would yield the exact information needed for the present dredging. We suggest that the proposed appropriation should be directed towards the needed dredging, and not for the duplication of existing information.

We note that the funds requested herein are in no way related to other funding requests which address proposals for implementation of the Ala Wai Improvement project.