



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

RL:0562

**HB 1984-86**  
**RELATING TO DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS FERAE NATURAE**

**Statement for**  
**House Committee on**  
**Agriculture**  
**Public Hearing - February 12, 1986**

**By**  
**Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center**

HB 1984 would amend HRS 142-91, a section that prohibits killing animals "ferae naturae". This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The present statute prohibits shooting or otherwise destroying any animal "ferae naturae" that has been introduced into the State within 10 years, or the progeny of such animals, without specifying a time limit for the prohibition as it applies to the progeny. With the amendment, the 10-year time limit would apply not only to the individual animals originally introduced but to their progeny.

By the amendment, however, a present provision for penalties not to exceed \$50 would be deleted. We think the deletion is probably unintentional because, without a penalty provision, the prohibition has essentially no force.

There are two other problems with the existing statute to which the amendment would not relate. The first is that "animals ferae naturae" are not defined in the statutes and very few people would know, without consulting an unabridged dictionary, that the term refers to animals that are wild by nature. The second and more substantial problem is that the present statute would prohibit destruction of an animal accidentally or illegally introduced into the state even if such an animal were dangerous or environmentally harmful.

We suggest that HB 1984 be revised to retain the penalty provision and to cope with the two other problems mentioned.