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HB 355
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROJECT
TO CONTROL WEBWORMS ON MAUI

Statement for
House Committee on
Agriculture
Public Hearing - February 25, 1987

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HB 355 would appropriate funds for a biological control project to control webworms on Maui. The statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We understand that the funds requested are needed to continue an ongoing biological control program of the Department of Agriculture and will be expended over a two year period.

Webworms are just one of many species of insects recognized as a serious menace to the agricultural industry on Maui and pose a continued problem to various crops throughout the State. Pesticides have limited effectiveness on these populations due to difficulty in getting material to reach the pests, and their partial resistance to currently registered materials. Control of Webworms is further compounded by the wide distribution of the hosts, which include leafy vegetables and pasture grasses. Biological control is best suited for pests with these wide variety of hosts and the use of funds for biological control programs represent a positive approach to seeking a solution to the on going problems.