



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

RL:0764

HR 63
CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING
OF THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM

Statement for
House Committee on
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - March 10, 1988

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Clifford Smith, Botany
Charles Lamoureux, Botany
Sheila Conant, General Science
Robert Kinzie, Zoology
Steven Armann, Environmental Center

HR 63 directs the Natural Area Reserves Commission to aggressively implement the comprehensive strategic plan for the State Natural Area Reserves System and, in cooperation with other agencies, to prepare a report on the progress to date for implementation of the plan including a discussion of potential problems, solutions, additional protective mechanisms, and funding requirements.

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

We are very much encouraged by the legislative support given to the Natural Area Reserves System and wish to first and foremost express our appreciation to you for your efforts on behalf of the Natural Area Reserves System.

While we readily concur with the need for implementation of the plan, as is specifically cited in HR 63, we note that funds will be needed to support the "aggressive implementation" called for. It is our understanding that the funding provided by the 1987 State Legislature according to the fourth "whereas" paragraph, was limited to the natural resource inventory and the development of a management plan, and did not include funds for the implementation of this plan.

Implementation of the four specific directives cited in the second "be it resolved" paragraph (page 2) are to some extent less dependent on additional funds and at least three of these directives can likely be addressed under the existing budget. The one exception is item 2. Item 2 calls for a report covering the potential or actual problems in the implementation of the strategic plan and a recommendation as to solutions to these problems. To identify specific potential or actual problems and solutions will require considerable time and effort, particularly site specific studies, if rationale and realistic solutions are to be proposed. It may be possible to provide an overview of the generic problems by the date requested, but it should be recognized that accomplishment of the directive in item 2 will, by necessity, have to be carried out as part of an ongoing process, dependent on the results of site specific research and management experience.

Again, we commend your committee for its support of the Natural Area Reserves System and the legislative emphasis it has received this session.