



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center
A Unit of Water Resources Research Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL:1311

HB 3169

RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS PROGRAM

House Committee on Water and Land Use Planning

Public Hearing - January 30, 1996
9:00 A.M., Room 312, State Capitol

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Cliff Smith, Botany

HB 3169 would provide for reallocation of money from recreational fuel taxes to the trail and access program, while deleting references to the general fund.

Our statement on this measure is compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed academic reviewers, and as such, does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

In general, we support the intent of this measure to solidify the funding for Na Ala Hele. However, we are concerned about the reference to commercial use of public trails and access. What exactly does this mean? Is Na Ala Hele entering the business of ecotourism promotion? Without specific information on the extent of tourism promotion, we are left with an uneasy feeling about prospects for equestrian, or even motorized vehicle use of trails. What are the goals of this effort, and who sets the standards for use? In view of prior experiences with commercial use of natural resources, we caution Na Ala Hele to be mindful of other competing use scenarios that have unfolded in Hawaii in the wake of commercialization of public assets.