



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Environmental Center

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### HB 1067 RELATING TO FISHING

House Committee on Ocean Recreation  
and Marine Resources

Public Hearing - February 9, 1995  
8:30 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center  
Richard Brock, Sea Grant  
James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

HB 1067 would amend Section 188-29, HRS, to establish mesh size and entrance specifications for fishing traps.

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

Generally, the intent of this measure appears to be to make trap use in fishing more restrictive. From a conservation standpoint, it is clearly advantageous to alleviate fishing pressures, particularly on pre-reproductive size animals. However, it should also be recognized that fishing with traps provides a means of making a living for a segment of the population.

Some of the language of the bill is confusing. For instance, page 1, line 7 excludes traps lacking escape vents from the general prohibition against possession, yet section (B) on page 2, lines 3-13 states that all traps must have escape vent panels. Some editorial clarification would be useful. In addition, should there be a provision for traps which are used for scientific or research purposes?