



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Office of the Director

RL:0315

Proposal 36  
RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF GROUNDWATER

Con Con Committee on Environment, Agriculture,  
Conservation and Land  
Public Hearing 14 August 1978

by  
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

Proposal 36 would amend Article X of the Constitution to add a new section assuring availability of groundwater. This statement on the proposal does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The proposal purports to provide the legislature with the power to assure that sufficient groundwater is available for public use. Such assurances cannot be provided by the legislature or any other human agency, because there are natural limits to groundwater resources.

The intent of the proposal is presumably, that the legislature is charged to do what is humanly impossible to assure the availability of groundwater. Such assurance is important, however, with regard to water in general, not merely groundwater, and the legislature is already charged under the Constitution with the responsibility to promote water development generally.