



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

RL:0904

HB 628 HD 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVING
THE STATEWIDE RAINFALL AND FLOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM

Statement for Senate Committee on
Government Operations
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By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
William Grannis, Environmental Center
George Curtis, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research
Thomas Giambelluca, Geography

HB 628 HD 1 would provide funds for a program to improve the statewide rainfall and flood information system by installing telemetered raingauges in flood prone valleys in each county.

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

We strongly support the purpose of this bill. Just as we have long advocated various research efforts and improvements to the tsunami warning system, so the improvement to our rainfall flood warning system will serve to minimize losses of property and/or life due to rainfall induced floods. Installation of these threshold gauges will establish an efficient and necessary advance warning system which will serve to anticipate previously unexpected and disasterous floods such as the New Year's flood on Oahu in 1987.

A secondary benefit of the system will be the establishment of longer term records of rainfall vs. stream flow that can provide the basis for establishing maintenance schedules for flood channels.

While the required telemetry instrumentation is readily available and in fact one such instrument is currently being installed by the City at Kawainui, funds will also be needed to design data analysis programs to most effectively meet state needs. HB 628 HD 1 is an excellent first step in improving the flood information system for civil defense.