



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

RL:0794

SB 261
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A
EUROPEAN BROWN SNAIL CONTROL PROGRAM

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment
Public Hearing - February 9, 1989

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Michael Hadfield, Zoology

SB 261 would appropriate \$35,000 for the development and implementation of a program to control the proliferation of the European Brown Snail.

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

We appreciate the concern of the legislature to control introduced species that are adversely affecting the environment and the benefits of educational programs that address the spread of deleterious species. However, in the case of the European Brown Snail, we are not aware of any evidence that the snail is posing a significant problem to our agriculture or forest ecosystems. There is a significant lack of basic information on the ecology-biology of this snail in Hawaii and if money is to be appropriated it would seem to be more productively assigned to research on the ecology of the animal.

As presently drafted, the funds to be appropriated would be expended by the Department of Agriculture. We note that there are relatively few people in Hawaii with expertise in land snail ecology. Hence, we strongly suggest that those University researchers with such specialization may be the most qualified to carry out this research.