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SB 387
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing - 10 March 1981

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The purpose of SB 387 is to protect historic property not on the Hawaii register of historic places. This statement on SB 387 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Although we recognize the intent of the amendments proposed in SB 387, we feel that they would place an unreasonable burden on the developer by requiring him to delay construction activities for up to 90 days if such activities may impact on historic sites. How is the developer to determine whether or not he is dealing with historic property? Because of this mandated delay, SB 387 may in effect reduce cooperation between developers and those assigned to protect the State's historical heritage because of the high financial costs associated with delays in construction.

The time and cost involved preclude requiring the Department of Land and Natural Resources to be responsible for monitoring of all private developments at the level necessary to assure total state awareness of historic remains. Perhaps the intent of the proposed amendment could be fulfilled if county building permit applications were required to assess potential historic impacts on properties not on the Hawaii register of historic places. Thus, the burden of determining impacts on such historic properties would be placed on county officials and a decision to stop or delay the project could be made prior to the construction phase of a development.