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Environmental Center

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HB 1484 HD 1 RELATING TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use

Public Hearing - March 31, 1995
1:00 P.M., Room 405, SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
M. Casey Jarman, School of Law
Peter J. Rappa, Sea Grant
Andrew Tomlinson, Environmental Center

HB 1484 HD 1 would amend chapter 205A to clarify circumstances under which an otherwise excluded development project must obtain an SMA permit.

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

Proposed amendments in this bill address a concern that project review and regulatory management of developments in sensitive coastal areas are not triggered in instances where the scope of the project lies mostly outside the SMA. Secondary, or cumulative impacts of these projects may warrant oversight, yet under the existing system, none would be imposed. Thus the measure strengthens the present SMA system in a manner consistent with CZM intent.

We anticipate that opposition to this proposed change may be voiced based on arguments of unnecessary regulation and cumbersome permitting issues. However, particularly in areas where coastal processes are dynamic or where the threat of inundation is recognized, public safety will be served by a more intensive planning and review process, and for this reason, we support the intent of this measure.