



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

RL:0885

HB 3403 HD 1 HSCR 133-90
RELATING TO FOREST RESERVES

Statement for House Committee on
Finance
February 27, 1990

By
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Clifford Smith, Botany/Cooperative National Park Resources Studies
William Grannis, Environmental Center

HB 3403 institutes a tree planting program on suitable state controlled lands.

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

This bill is appropriate. It would be improved by emphasizing that reforestation be achieved using endemic Hawaiian trees such as Acacia koa. A logical approach to this reforestation process would be to reforest some of the state forest land that has been converted to ranchland. For example, the ghost forest created by conversion of an ancient koa forest to ranchland along Mana Road above Lapahoehoe should be reconverted to koa forest. It would mean the revision of state leases. However, now is the time to start the conversion. Reforestation is an important key but another important greenhouse gas is methane produced in large quantities by cattle. Stopping the conversion of forest to ranchland and reversing the process will be a logical twofold step towards fulfilling Hawaii's part in the halting of a global warming process.