

STATEMENT CONCERNING SR 136
RECLASSIFICATION OF HEEIA FISHPOND FOR CONSERVATION
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While it is desirable to preserve Hawaiian landmarks for historical and ecological reasons one must carefully weigh consequences and costs of such an action. Heeia fishpond is now in a bad state of disrepair; it is silted heavily, the retaining wall is broken in several places, in short it could not be used as a functional fishpond in its present state. It still functions, to a greater or lesser extent (said extent to be determined by an appropriate investigation) as a catchment basin for some land runoff.

To repair the pond so that it could be used as a fishpond, either in the old Hawaiian manner which was rather labor-intensive, or in a more modern guise would cost at least \$200,000. Repair, however, is only the first stage. Thereafter the pond must be operated; such operation can be accomplished in a number of ways: for instance the Bishop Museum may elect to add a traditionally operated Hawaiian fishpond to its exhibits, the Department of Land and Natural Resources may operate it through its Division of Fish and Game, perhaps as a pay-as-you-go fishpond, it may become a part of the Ulu Mau Village display - as a traditional demonstration of component of an Ahupua'a, and finally it could be leased to a private operator who may wish to run it for profit.

We believe it not to be in the interest of conservation, in the best sense of the word, to make a decision on this resolution without also deliberating the issues brought out in this statement. When it has been resolved a) that

funds are available to repair the pond and b) that a method has been found to operate the pond with minimal or no cost to the State, then a decision should be made of whether conservation oriented or alternative uses of the pond-site seem wiser, in the long run.