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HB 531
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
EXPANSION OF THE OYSTER BREEDING PROGRAM

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - 24 February 1981

By
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HB 531 would provide funds for the expansion of the oyster breeding program. This statement on HB 531 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

While we generally support the aquaculture programs of the State of Hawaii we have certain reservations about the direction of HB 531. Oyster culture has been practiced for hundreds of years in Japan and southeast Asian countries. The expertise developed and disseminated in the literature from previous research should provide much of the information necessary for the nutritional evaluation of various food algae, and development of a breeding program in Hawaii.

It is our understanding that the oyster farm currently in operation in Hawaii is federally funded as a commercial operation. The provision of state funds for a research breeding program may not be considered appropriate by federal funding agencies if their funds were granted on the basis of supporting a proven operation.