



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 455  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CLEANING SHORES AND BEACHES  
OF SEAWEED, LIMU, AND DEBRIS

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Tourism and Recreation  
Public Hearing - February 12, 1991

By  
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Clifford Smith, Botany/Cooperative National Park Resources Studies Unit  
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SB 455 would appropriate state funds to Maui County for cleaning shores and beaches of seaweed, limu and debris.

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

Several house and senate bills have been introduced this session that relate to responsibility and funding of beach cleanup. We certainly concur that cleaning some shores and beaches is appropriate and in some cases even essential particularly when debris poses health or safety risks to beach users. However, as we pointed out in our testimony on HB 196 and the companion Senate bill, SB 462, not all beaches should be kept free of seaweed and debris.

Seaweed, limu, and debris are an integral part of the coastal ecosystem and provide food and shelter to a myriad of coastal creatures. Considerable selection should be practiced in any cleanup campaign to assure that shoreline areas with minimal beach recreational use are allowed to remain in their "natural" state.