



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## HB 3139 RELATING TO SHORELINES

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - February 25, 1988

By  
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HB 3139 would amend HRS Chapter 205A-42 to direct the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to adopt rules for determining a shoreline and for filing appeals of shoreline determinations consistent with certain provisions set forth in new subsections (b) and (c). Subsection (b) in turn sets forth certain notification procedures to be carried out by BLNR in the course of determining a shoreline; specifies instructions to the state surveyor as to the methods to be used in the field survey of the shoreline; and establishes procedures for conducting a public hearing, if requested, regarding the proposed shoreline determination. Subsection (c) specifies that no shoreline shall be certified until the board (BLNR) has adopted rules pursuant to this section.

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

The amendments proposed appear to focus on assuring public notification of any shoreline determinations and stress that interested and presumably informed individuals will be afforded the opportunity to offer their local knowledge as guidance to the state surveyor during the time of the field survey. How helpful this guidance will be in determining specific shoreline boundaries seems questionable. The fluctuating boundaries of coastal shorelines that are not rock faced is well known. It might be appropriate to require that historic records of the shoreline area be consulted prior to a shoreline determination on a shoreline with less clearly defined boundaries. Certainly public input should be welcome and may contribute to a better understanding of the longer term shoreline dynamics of the area under consideration. As for the need for broad notification, it should be noted that, in the case of naturally occurring and more easily defined rocky shorelines, such broad notification and solicitation of input may not be as warranted.