



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center  
A Unit of Water Resources Research Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL:01407

## HB 380 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns

Public Hearing, February 1, 1999  
8:30 a.m., Room 325, State Capitol

by  
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 380 would amend Chapter 269-27.6, HRS, to require that 46kV or greater transmission lines in residential areas, areas viewed by visitors, or areas important to the film industry be buried underground.

Our statement on this measure is compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed reviewers and does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Public sentiment concerning unsightly overhead utility installations increasingly mandates that a measure such as this becomes institutionalized as State policy. Opinions of university faculty and staff elicited during our review of the draft EIS for the proposed Kamoku-Pukele 138kV transmission line were overwhelmingly in favor of an alternative to the utility's preferred overhead alignment. Principal concerns included aesthetics, safety, hurricane vulnerability, and questions as to the need for the project.

We thus concur with the intent of the present measure, but we would suggest that lines 12-13, page 2, be rewritten as follows:

...located underground and designed so as to minimize electro-magnetic field emissions."