



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## SB 1262 RELATING TO AQUATIC LIFE

Statement for Senate Committee on  
Ecology, Environment, and Recreation  
Public Hearing, 3 March 1983

By

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Section 3 of SB 1262 would amend chapter 188-30.2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to limit the length of time to 12 hours that a net or trap can be situated in one location. This statement on this bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We see two problems arising from the proposed amendment to this section:

- 1) The difficulty of accurately determining the length of time a trap has been placed in a given location.
- 2) Trap fishing becomes effective as bottom time increases.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, as the enforcement agency, can not be expected to monitor the length of time each individual trap or net has been in one place.

If enforcement were possible, limiting trap fishing to 12 hours would to a great extent eliminate the fishery from being economically feasible. As stated earlier, trap fishing becomes more effective as bottom time increases. Initially small marginally harvestable fish are trapped, these in turn attract the larger fish causing an increasingly better economic catch - time ratio over a period of days to weeks. The minimum effective bottom time is generally assumed to be 3 days.

To limit trap fishing to 12 hours would virtually eliminate its economic feasibility. If that is the intent of this bill it may be more appropriate to ban trap fishing.