



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center

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HB 577

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT LAW

House Committee on Water and Land Use
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing, February 4, 1999
9:00 a.m., Room 325, State Capitol

By

John Harrison, Environmental Center
Kem Lowry, Urban and Regional Planning
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HB 577 would amend Section 343-6, HRS, to implement policy guidelines on cultural surveys, biological surveys, sea walls and well-water drilling and development as rules under Title 11, Chapter 200, HAR.

Our comments on this measure are compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed academic sources, and as such, do not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The policy guidelines proposed in this measure were adopted over the course of the past several years through a deliberate and comprehensive process of consensus building. Draft guidelines were circulated to relevant agencies, the private sector and the public for review and comment, and were put into effect by administrative fiat. They have been shown to be an enormously valuable, yet unobtrusive means of clarifying and directing proposed development.

We are concerned that in the present climate of regulatory revolt, implementing this measure might have the effect of dampening future cooperation of agencies and individuals in the articulation of similar guidelines. The present system works, and we see little gain in changing it.