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HB 529
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PROVIDE
THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC BASE FOR A SPIRULINA CULTURE INDUSTRY

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - 24 February 1981

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HB 529 recognizes the need to develop the aquaculture industry in Hawaii and in particular to produce animal feed ingredients and to formulate feeds to reduce production costs. Spirulina, an aquatic plant (algae) is proposed as one such feed source. HB 529 would provide the necessary funds to culture and evaluate Spirulina. This statement does not represent and institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

While we recognize and fully support the need to develop our aquaculture industry, we do have some reservations concerning the specific direction proposed by this bill. Spirulina is a single cell algae whose cost effective production at least in Taiwan and Japan is based on its use in human foods. Contrary to what is indicated in HB 529 (page 2, line 10) the conditions for the cultivation of Spirulina in Mexico are quite different than here. In Mexico, it is grown in brine lakes in which the extreme salinities and environmental conditions inhibit the growth of any other algae species. We question whether a single species culture of Spirulina is economically feasible in Hawaiian waters, and suggest that the feasibility of other species of marine algae should also be examined.