



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 1430  
RELATING TO FISHING WITH DRIFT GILL NETS

SB 1840  
RELATING TO OCEAN DRIFT GILL NET FISHING

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Hearing - February 20, 1989

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SB 1430 and SB 1840 seek to address the problem of fishing with ocean drift nets. SB 1840 would ban the use of ocean drift nets in State waters whereas SB 1430 would extend this ban to the State's Exclusive Economic Zone with significant enforcement capabilities. Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We strongly concur with the intent of SB 1430 and SB 1840. Long gill nets set adrift for some period of time (usually 24-48 hours) are non-selective of the species they catch. This may include fish with little or no commercial value that are then discarded dead or in weakened condition. Marine mammals and turtles are also known to become entangled. Perhaps the most serious environmental problem associated with drift nets results from their loss. In this case they "ghost fish" for indefinite periods and continue to trap fish and other marine life for no beneficial purpose.

Of the two bills, SB 1430 would convey the more significant protective regulation, given that it includes the entire EEZ, and that it contains specific provisions for enforcement.

Because of their potential to cause great damage to the local fishery an outright ban is appropriate. The penalties and fines proposed should be sufficient to stop their use.