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SR 11, SCR 11
REQUESTING THE LAND USE COMMISSION
TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND PUBLIC SAFETY
IMPACT OF RESTRICTING DEVELOPMENT IN
HIGH LAVA FLOW INUNDATION HAZARD AREAS

Senate Committee on
Planning, Land and Water Use Management

Public Hearing - March 31, 1992
3:00 PM, Room 504, SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Augustus Furumoto, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics
N. Norby Nielsen, Civil Engineering

SR 11 and SCR 11 are among a suite of resolutions urging a variety of state and federal agencies to undertake studies of potential social, economic, and public safety impacts of implementing development and land use restrictions within high lava flow inundation hazard areas.

Our statement on these measures does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Conspicuously absent from the assemblage of agencies and commissions mentioned in these resolutions is the Hawaii State Earthquake Advisory Board, formed in August of 1990 and comprised of professionals from the scientific, engineering, and academic communities having particular expertise in the area of seismic and volcanic hazards. We direct the Committee's attention to this board, particularly since much of the emphasis of these resolutions directly overlaps areas which have been under the Board's formal consideration since its inception. In view of the direct support provided to the Board by the state department of defense, we suggest that this office might be most appropriate as the lead agency in enactment of provisions of these resolutions.

As members of the HSEAB, we note that hazards of lava inundation, while destructive, generally do not pose as immediate a threat to human life as those of earthquakes. Policy already has been developed with regard to

public buildings within earthquake hazard areas through the Uniform Building Code which designates areas within 10 km of a major fault as seismic zone 4, the region of maximum probability of a high intensity ground motion event. All of the areas in the Kilauea lava flow hazard zones 1 and 2 are also in a region where the major fault system lies 7 km below the surface.