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HB 967 H.D.2 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Senate Committee on
Economic Development

Public Hearing - February 25, 1998
2:00P.M., Room 212 State Capitol

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 967 H.D.2 would amend Section 200-39, HRS to provide that the DLNR shall implement recommendations of the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan; that the sunset date for the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan is repealed; and that the Office of Planning of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and DLNR shall assist the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council in implementing the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan.

My statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

I strongly support the intent of this measure. In an era marked by the emergence of community-based planning as the mechanism of choice for management of regional resources, the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan stands out as a paragon of community self-determination. Through many months of often intensely emotional deliberations, representatives of the broadly diverse segments of the Kaneohe Bay community met and systematically confronted the varied agendas, complex interrelationships, and deeply-felt responsibility for stewardship of the Bay and its watershed. As Vice Chair of the Task Force Water Use Committee, I observed firsthand the dedication, integrity, and community spirit of the participants in this effort. That all of these efforts yet remain unfulfilled despite the continuing efforts of the Kaneohe Bay community raises the ominous spectre of an elected administration abandoning the collective will of many in response to the strident clamor of the few.

Too many hopes, not only for a sustainable future for Kaneohe Bay, but of application of these collective deliberations as a generalized process of management for other resources, other communities, are jeopardized by the failure to complete this task. Passing this measure will validate community-based management. Rejecting it will cast a long shadow over future efforts.