



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0837

SR 227  
REQUESTING A CENSUS OF AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
PROTECTION PLAN FOR THE OPE'APE'A

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture  
Public Hearing - April 11, 1989

By  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center  
Charles Lamoureux, Botany  
Sheila Conant, General Science

SR 227 requests that a census and protection plan be developed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the Hawaiian Bat.

Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We generally concur with the intent of this resolution. There is little information available on the populations and distribution of the Hawaiian Bat. In addition to its importance as an endangered species and the only land mammal in Hawaii, we note that it is a native insectivorous mammal and may assist in controlling some unwanted insect pests.

The resolution calls for a statewide census (paragraph 1) and the development of an action plan for protection and replenishment of the bat (paragraph 2). Paragraph (3) directs that a broad based public education program be initiated to call attention to the state's delicate ecosystem but provides no specific attention to the Hawaiian Bat. We believe that the public education programs called for in paragraph 3 should be directed more specifically to developing public awareness of the Hawaiian Bat, its lifestyle and needs for protection.

The findings from paragraphs 1 and 2 should be provided to other ongoing public environmental education programs as well as being used in fulfilling the responsibilities set forth in paragraph 3.