



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Environmental Center

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## SB 201 SD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - March 22, 1995  
8:30 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

by

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

SB 201 SD1 creates a temporary task force in the governor's office to develop policies, plans, goals, objectives, and recommendations, and to improve laws and programs related to environmental protection.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the university of Hawaii.

This measure expands upon initiatives of the education working group of last year's Energy and Environmental Protection Summit. The foundations provided by the education and other working groups convened during the Summit process provide excellent bases for the deliberations of the proposed task force, along with products of other recent efforts, such as the Governor's Task Force on a Department of Environmental Protection, the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan Task Force, and the Environmental Center's study of the Hawaii State EIS System. In addition, ongoing efforts coordinated by the Office of State Planning should be incorporated into the proposed deliberations.

While all of the activities identified in Sections 2(d) and 2(e) of the bill are important, we most strongly concur with the aspects of the measure which promote environmental education and community-based management. We have long maintained that an informed, motivated community is more effective than any amount of imposed regulatory effort in the management of the environment and the provision for the environmental welfare of our children.