



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center

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HB 3232

RELATING TO AN OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE FACILITY

**House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection,
Water and Land Use Planning, and
Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources**

**Joint Public Hearing - February 7, 1996
8:30 A.M., Room 312, State Capitol**

By

John Harrison, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HB 3232 would amend Chapter 128D, HRS to provide for construction, operation and maintenance of an oiled wildlife response facility.

Our comments on this measure are compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed academic sources, and as such, do not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The need for an oiled wildlife response facility was cited in the UH Sea Grant Report on Hawaii's Oil Spill Response system. Hence, we support the intent of this bill. However, we also note that training of staff and volunteers to respond in the event of an oil spill emergency is equally essential. We are aware of the training program conducted through the Hawaii Audubon Society and supported by grants from Chevron and BHP, and we applaud these efforts. To the degree that the proposed use of the Emergency Response Special Fund will promote further capability in this arena, this use would appear appropriate.

We also would note that given the geographic isolation of the various regions of the state, in particular the location of the most sensitive wildlife areas in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, it would be prudent to develop a mobile response-container facility that could be shipped to the site of an oil spill.