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SB 1771 SD 1
RELATING TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Statement for
House Committees on
Ocean and Marine Resources
and
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - March 15, 1989

By
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SB 1771 would amend Section 205A-22 by amending the definition of "development" to exclude commercial ocean recreation activities regulated under HRS Chapter 267 thereby removing such activities from permit requirements in the special management area. Specifically, SD 1771 SD 1 would eliminate the requirement for a special management area permit for operation of thrill craft or parasailing under HRS 267-16.

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

The findings and purpose statement in HRS 205A-2 clearly recognizes the importance of the coastal resources to the State of Hawaii, the need to protect, and wisely manage those resources and declares that, "...it is the state policy to preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the natural resources of the coastal zone of Hawaii." In fact, the language of HRS 205A-2 specifically sets forth the responsibilities of the coastal zone management program and the relationship of the Coastal Zone Management area to the Special Management areas for carrying out the purposes and policies of HRS 205A.

The purpose of the special management area permit system is to assure that decision makers have adequate information on proposed activities within the sensitive coastal areas so as to make informed decisions. Commercial ocean recreation activities currently regulated under HR 267-16 have been of great public concern and may impact not only the water areas where they take

place but also the shorelines where passenger loading and unloading operations take place, and various infrastructure needs are required, i.e. roads, comfort stations, and parking.

Evaluation of the cumulative effects and relationships between land, shoreline, and coastal resource use would be significantly reduced by these amendments. Wise and informed coastal resource management will be greatly impaired if this bill is passed.

We do not concur with the intent of this legislation.