



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Office of the Director

RL:0286

SB 2617-78, SD 1
RELATING TO AN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Statement for the
House Committee on Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing 16 March

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SB 2617, SD 1 would establish a Conservation and Resources Enforcement Program within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Although single authored, this statement on the bill is based on a previous review, involving A.H. Banner (Zoology) and Charles Lamoureux (Botany), of two house bills with similar content, HB 2750 and HB 3058. HB 3058 was a companion bill to the original version of SB 2617. Neither the previous review nor this statement reflect institutional positions of the University of Hawaii.

In any reorganization, although certain strengths are achieved by the closer coordination of certain related functions, the achievement is at the expense of weaknesses produced by separating other related functions. The reorganization that would be encouraged by SB 2617 seems in the net useful.

The gain from the proposed centralization of enforcement powers is that an enforcement officer would not be restricted to enforcing the regulations of a single division of the DLNR. The loss would be separation of the development of regulations from their enforcement. Since the extent of consolidation of enforcement powers is left up to DLNR to determine, SB 2617 allows flexibility to determine what extent of centralization will be optimal.