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SB 536
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR
FRUIT FLY CONTROL AND ERADICATION PROJECTS

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment
Public Hearing - February 14, 1989

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SB 536 would appropriate funds for various fruit fly control and eradication projects including environment monitoring, chemical registration, and public eradication [education] programs. Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The need to control fruit flies in Hawaii is an issue of continuing interest and concern by the agricultural, legislative and scientific communities as well as the general public. We concur with the intent of SB 536 to address this issue but we have some reservations about specific language in the bill and therefore offer the following amendments for your consideration:

Lines 3-4 We suggest that the phrase "less any federal funds received" be deleted. It is our understanding that some \$200,000 is already committed by the federal government for fruit fly research, so unless this phrase is deleted, the effect of the bill is moot.

Line 7 As drafted, the environmental monitoring program is limited to the effects of various eradication measures on "nontarget organisms". There are other potentially significant areas of impact that should be considered, for example, the

effects of the eradication measures on groundwater or surfacewater systems. We urge that line 7 be amended to broaden the scope of the environmental monitoring program.

Lines 7-8 The bill would provide funds for a registration program for various chemicals necessary for an eradication program. The intent of this provision should be defined more clearly. Which chemicals will be used? Would the "eradication program" include aerial spraying? What is considered "necessary" for an eradication program?

Line 9 As drafted lines 8 and 9 refer to a public "eradication" program. We assume this should read public education program.

The \$170,000 proposed will provide funds for some of the key programs, such as environmental monitoring, that are in need of greater support. Considering the scope of the planned work and the economic and environmental issues at stake, the appropriation should provide a good return on the investment.