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HB 2420
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A COMMERCIAL SIZE TROPICAL DISINFESTATION SYSTEM
ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI

Statement for
House Committees on
Higher Education and the Arts
Agriculture
Public Hearing - January 31, 1990

By
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Making an appropriation for the Development of a Commercial Size Tropical Fruit Disinfestation System on the island of Kauai.

HB 2420 would appropriate funds for the development of a fruit fly disinfestation system on Kauai.

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

As recognized in Section I of the bill the double dip hot water treatment for export fruits is not a 100 percent effective method for the control of fruit flies. HB 2420 fails to identify what "system" will be developed. Presumably the disinfestation "system" that would be funded by the requested appropriation is an irradiation facility similar to that previously proposed for the big island. We note that foreign companies may be contributing to cost share in the project which would be appropriate considering Hawaii's small share of the overall fresh fruit market.

It would seem appropriate to investigate carefully the market for irradiated fruit prior to expenditure of large sums of money on the development of the "system". It is our understanding that the market may be poor due to serious reservations, whether founded or not, as to the safety of consuming irradiated foods.

If the market does not justify the cost of the facility, then those development funds might better be spent on furthering research on biological control of fruit flies.