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HB 2804
RELATING TO NATURAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Judiciary
Health
Higher Education and the Arts

Public Hearing - January 31, 1992
8:30 AM, Rm 1310

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Clifford Smith, Botany

HB 2804 would amend last year's legislative appropriation for the Natural Area Partnership program, increasing the allotment from \$250,000 to \$800,000 for FY 1992-93.

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

The proposed level of funding brings the available monies more into line with what experience has determined to be reasonable program needs. Thus, we strongly support the intent of this bill. We would note, however, that partnerships are created for intervals of ten years, and reliance on annual or biennial funding may deter private landowners from participating in the program. A more consistent, dedicated funding mechanism would be preferable, and we note that such a proposal has been submitted by the administration in HB 3062. However, since that measure will not take effect until FY 1993-94, interim funding under the provisions of this measure is required to sustain the program.