



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## Environmental Center

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL.01269

### HB 1790 RELATING TO GAME MAMMALS

House Committees on  
Water and Land Use Planning;  
Energy and Environmental Protection

Joint Public Hearing - March 1, 1995  
8:30 AM, Room 1310 SOT

By  
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center  
Charles Lamoureux, Lyon Arboretum  
Cliff Smith, Botany

HB 1790 would designate the pig (*Sus scrofa*) as a valued game mammal and require that it be managed to ensure its perpetuation.

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

This measure is virtually identical to HB 2625 introduced during the past Legislative session, and our comments reflect the findings of our prior review.

Above all other rhetoric surrounding the issue of feral pig populations in Hawaii, one fact remains abundantly clear. No technique exists which will successfully eradicate feral pigs. Hence, the population is not in any danger of disappearing. In fact, the pig already is managed as a game animal, and this measure is therefore unnecessary. Furthermore, by defining an animal for subsistence, other landowners who need to exclude feral pigs may be prevented from doing so. Thus, a property owner wishing to kill a pig because it poses a nuisance in the garden or in a crop field would be prevented from doing so because its value as a subsistence game animal would preclude control.

We suggest that this measure is superfluous, and that it would place an unnecessary burden on the department to develop rules which would be virtually impossible to devise and even more problematic to enforce.