



# 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:01282

### HB 745 HD2 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.

Senate Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - March 17, 1995  
1:00 P.M., Room 305, SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center  
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant

HB 745 HD2 would appropriate \$130,000 to provide for a one-to-one match as required by the federal Coastal Zone Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 in order to receive federal funds for the nonpoint source pollution control program. The measure also would appropriate \$380,721 to meet matching fund requirements for federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grants of \$761,442.

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

Nonpoint source pollution management arguably is the most important environmental need facing Hawaii. Virtually all other environmental issues in one way or another are expressed as a nonpoint source pollution concern, imposing costly clean-up burdens on agriculture, industry, landowners, and government. The fabric of our economic health is interwoven with nonpoint source strands; tourist dismay over dirty, contaminated waters would lead to visitors choosing alternate vacation destinations; costly clean-up of nonpoint source contamination from federal facilities would lead the US government to seek other bases from which to operate; development of diversified agriculture cannot proceed without consideration of soil erosion and chemical runoff from fields.

The federal Clean Water Act makes it clear that nonpoint source pollution will be addressed, and if the states don't develop their own best management practices, federal programs will be imposed on the state. Past experience of imposition of federal environmental standards in Hawaii has demonstrated that methods and criteria developed on the mainland for mainland climates and landforms are disastrously inappropriate in Hawaii's oceanic, subtropical environment. Without a strong state nonpoint source pollution management program, we will pay for federally-mandated solutions which we don't need, or, more likely, which are ineffective at best, and, at worst, destructive of the healthful and attractive environment which is the lifeblood of our economy.