



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
A Unit of Water Resources Research Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 956-7361

RL:0958

HB 1218
RELATING TO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Statement for
House Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - February 15, 1991

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HB 1218 would appropriate \$50,000 for the Environmental Council to conduct statewide public hearings.

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

While we can appreciate the interest of the council in meeting with the public to gain information on the progress of the state in achieving its environmental goals and policies, we would suggest that action on this bill be temporarily deferred. The Environmental Center is presently carrying out an extensive review of HRS 343. Recommendations for amendments to HRS 343 are likely to be forthcoming in the next few months. As the rule making body for HRS 343, it will be necessary for the Council to develop rules to comply with all amendments to HRS 343. As part of this rule-making authority, the council must hold public hearings on all islands. Therefore, it may be more appropriate to fund the public hearing travel costs of the council next year.