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SR 104/ SCR 118
RELATING TO ACT 77

Statement for Senate Committees on
Agriculture
Tourism, Recreation and Planning
March 29, 1990

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SR 104/ SCR 118 requests the Office of State Planning to conduct a review and evaluation of ACT 77, Session Laws of Hawaii 1989.

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

The depletion of the earth's ozone layer due to the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has serious public health implications as well as potential economic and ecological impacts. Increased incidence of malignant melanoma now being reported is thought to be due to exposure that occurred 10 to 20 years ago. Public concern over the increase in skin cancer incidence may soon translate into decreasing beach use and hence tourism. In the absence of federal standards, the future impact of continued use of CFCs must be addressed by state legislation. Hawaii's current legislation is serving as a model for Massachusetts and other states in the design of their own state laws.

Evaluation of legislation regarding CFCs as is proposed by these resolutions may be unwarranted if the amendments proposed in HB 2388 that effectively address the concerns with previous legislation are adopted.

SR 104/ SCR 118 suggests inherent weaknesses in ACT 77 which do not appear to exist based on our inspection of the Act. Control of CFC releases must be implemented to avert associated short and long-term costs. ACT 77 directly contributes to avoidance of a future in which Hawaii is shunned as a tourist destination by people concerned over the potential incidence of skin cancer. Hawaii's legislature is to be applauded for last year's landmark legislation.—ACT 77—combined with amendments in HB 2388 will again demonstrate Hawaii's leadership in environmental legislation relative to CFCs.

A Unit of Water Resources Research

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