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HB 2499-84
HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURE LAW

Statement for
House Committee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce
1 March 1984

By
Doak C. Cox, Director
Environmental Center

HB 2499-84 relates to a recently adopted chapter of Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring that an entity intending to increase substantially its ownership in a corporation must file with the Office of Environmental Quality Control a statement disclosing the nature of the business of the entity and any problems it has had in complying with environmental regulations. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The intent of the recently adopted chapter, as we understand it, may be expressed with some oversimplification to provide a means for detecting when some entity with a bad environmental track record was about to obtain substantial control of a corporation whose activities might affect the Hawaiian environment. Prior to its adoption we expressed the opinion that the Office of Environmental Quality Control did not have adequate competence to evaluate business information whose disclosure was required. So far as we are aware, the provisions of Chapter 343D have not been used, and the Chapter could be repealed without significant effect.