



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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**SB 702, SD 2**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**Statement for**  
**House Committee on**  
**Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection**  
**Public Hearing - 19 March 1985**

**By**  
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SB 702, SD 2 would extend until 1987 certain specific responsibilities that were placed on the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) for a period of one year by Act 246, 1984, and would provide an appropriation in support of the exercise of these responsibilities.

The responsibilities placed on the OEQC relate to the provision of needed inter-agency coordination of pesticide management activities. They were appropriately placed in the OEQC—indeed the Governor would have had the power to delegate them to OEQC under the provisions of HRS Chapter 343 even without the passage of Act 246, 1984. To meet the responsibilities successfully, however, the OEQC would need support beyond that provided by its regular budget, such as the support proposed in SB 702, SD 2. We have no comment on the appropriateness of the level of the support proposed, but note that the total of the appropriations for the two years proposed in the bill is \$355,000, whereas the total indicated in Standing Committee Report 535 accompanying the bill is \$390,000.

Environmental problems generally, including those associated with the management of pesticides, involve questions that are only partially amenable to the kind of objective analysis that can be provided by experts. However, technical expertise is essential in the exercise of the coordinating responsibilities that have been placed in the OEQC and would be continued by SB 702, SD 2. The OEQC cannot be expected to have represented in its staff the broad range of technical expertise required. Act 246 (1984) called for the establishment of a committee representing various concerned agencies to advise the OEQC. The committee is referred to as a technical advisory committee. However, there is no specification in either Act 246 nor SB 702 that appointees to the committee have the technical competence necessary to provide the OEQC with the advice needed. We suggest that, at least in a committee report on the bill if not the bill itself, the importance of technical competence in the members of the advisory committee be recognized.

The first of the coordinating responsibilities placed in OEQC under Act 246 related to studies of the movement and fate of potentially toxic and hazardous pesticides in soils, potable water sources, animal feed, and food products. This responsibility would be deleted by SB 702, SD 2 from the list of those of the OEQC. Because the results of such studies are essential to the formulation of an appropriate plan for the management of the pesticides, we consider that the OEQC should have a role in encouraging and planning for the studies, although not responsibility for the coordination of the work in the individual studies.