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SB 974
TO CONTROL THE GORSE INFESTATION
ON THE ISLANDS OF HAWAII AND MAUI

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Energy and Ocean Resources
Public Hearing - February 25, 1987

By
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SB 974 would provide for the appropriation of funds for the control of the gorse plant on the islands of Hawaii and Maui. The statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Gorse is fast becoming one of the most serious weeds in high elevation agricultural lands on the islands of Maui and Hawaii.

We fully concur with the purposes of this act and the proposed containment by using both conventional control methods and a biological control program. We suggest that emphasis (and a corresponding higher percentage of funds) be placed on the biological control program and that it not be limited to plant pathogens as indicated on page 1, line 12 of the bill. Biological control will provide the only long term solution to this problem. While it is likely that insect predators on the plant will be more effective than plant pathogens, researchers should be free to pursue both/all potential control agents to enhance the chance of success. Additional funds are likely to be needed in the second year of funding.