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HB 674 AND HB 675

RELATING TO FOREST AND WATER RESERVE ZONES

Statement for
House Committee on Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Homes
Public Hearing
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HB 674 and HB 675 propose amendments to Section 183-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which deals with Forest and Water Conservation zones. This statement on the two bills is being submitted for review to the Legislature subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii, but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

HB 674

The amendments proposed in HB 674 appear to be primarily housekeeping measures. Section 183-41 would be divided into subsections, and the provisions regarding hearing notices and hearings are changed in position and designated subsection (d). The amendments seem appropriate.

HB 675

HB 675 would, however, change the present mandatory provision regarding public hearings concerning proposed commercial uses within the Conservation District to a simple authorization. The allowance of any commercial uses within the Conservation District presents a serious question that deserves thorough consideration at a public hearing. The amendment proposed in HB 675 therefore seems unwise.