



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 476 and SB 477

RELATING TO FOREST AND WATER RESERVE ZONES

Statement for  
Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation  
Public Hearing  
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by

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SB 476 and SB 477 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 Legislative Subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii, but does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

## SB 476

The amendments proposed in SB 476 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.

## SB 477

SB 477 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 SB 477 therefore seems unwise.