



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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RL:0265

HB 1787  
RELATING TO SAND MINING

Statement to  
House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources  
Public Hearing, 17 February 1978

By  
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HB 1787 would provide an appropriation for a research and development program intended to inventory submarine and resources outside the shoreline setback area, determine the economic potential for developing these resources, develop sand mining equipment and techniques, and identify the impacts of offshore sand mining. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

We question the need for a research and development program having the purposes and scope outlined in the bill. Studies already completed have identified offshore sand resources, and have developed and demonstrated an economically feasible method of offshore sand mining. It would be foolish to try to delineate all sand reserves now economically mineable, because the reserves are so large that, before an important part of them will be mined, the economic cutoff is likely to be changed by changes in the value of sand or by efficiencies in mining techniques. The major bar to the use of offshore sand resources is now institutional.

As things now stand, a company wishing to mine offshore sand must first get a conservation district use permit for DLNR, this will probably require an EIS and other expenditures of funds and does not guarantee that once the permit is issued that DLNR will not give the mining license to another company.

We suggest two alternative solutions to the problem:

- 1) Allow a company filing an application for a sand mining permit to have exclusive rights to the mining covered by the permit for a stated period of adequate duration, so long as the mining has a certain continuity.

- 2) Have some state agency determine what deposits should be mined, do any detailed surveys necessary and meet EIS-system requirements, make the information available, and open the permits for mining of those parcels to bids.