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Corrected
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HB 2028, HD 1
HSCR 101-88
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR A SPACE PORT IN HAWAII

Statement for
House Committee on
Finance
Public Hearing - February 24, 1988

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
John Harrison, Environmental Center

HB 2028, HD 2 would provide funds for environmental and technical studies necessary for site selection and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a launching facility in Hawaii. This draft reflects amendments to HB 2028 to incorporate comments received at the initial hearing on HB 2028.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The amendment of the bill to broaden the purpose of the funds so as to include their use for environmental and technical studies pertinent to site selection as well as the preparation of the EIS reflects suggestions made by the Environmental Center in our earlier testimony on this bill, and we support this amendment.

We wish to call your attention, however, to a closely related bill, HB 2030, HD 1 which would provide funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for environmental studies pertinent to the space port in Hawaii. In our testimony on that bill, we called attention to the overlap in studies that would be funded by these bills and the need to coordinate these studies.

Furthermore, we urged that recognition of the expertise of the University of Hawaii at Hilo should be made a binding part of any appropriation for environmental studies pertinent to space port/launching facilities on the Big Island.

In summary, the studies that would be funded by HB 2028, HD 1 and HB 2030 HD 1 are essential if a space port/launching facility is to be considered. In carrying out these studies, the primary focus of the expenditure must be on the compilation and preparation of high quality, comprehensive, environmental studies. Researchers from the University of Hawaii at Hilo should be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the level of their competence toward these studies, but participation by other institutions or researchers, as necessary, is equally important to assure the comprehensiveness and quality of the results.