



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1280, HD 1 RELATING TO FLOOD CONTROL

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

March 22, 2005

By

Kenneth Kaneshiro
Director, Center for Conservation, Research & Training
University of Hawai'i

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Chairs Clayton Hee and Russell Kokubun, Vice Chairs Lorraine Inouye and Gary Hooser and Members of their respective Committees:

House Bill 1280, HD1 seeks funds for fiscal years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 for the Center for Conservation Research and Training to develop and coordinate the implementation of watershed management strategies to control flooding in two of Hawaii's most severely flood-impacted watersheds as identified by the Center.

The University's Center for Conservation Research and Training has the capacity to address the flood issues outlined in the bill and we will be able to establish a comprehensive watershed management plan that can serve a model system for a more controlled storm water runoff at levels that can be safely carried downstream by more effective drainage systems. In the second year, we will implement such a management plan in two of the most severely flood-impacted sites in the state to demonstrate the effectiveness of the watershed management design. We will also aggressively seek federal funding support to enable the state to implement similar flood mitigation plans within other flood prone watershed sites throughout the state. While the US Environmental Protection Agency will be the primary source of federal funding for this project, we will be seeking funding support from other agencies as well and therefore suggest that the language of the bill not limit any match requirements to the US EPA.

The University of Hawaii is in concurrence with the intent of the bill. The University also requests that the amount of \$250,000 for fiscal year 2005-2006 and \$500,000 for fiscal year 2006-2007 as stated in the original bill be reinstated. The University strongly supports passage of this bill on the condition that the funds requested for the project do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.