

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans

Statement

STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE JIM SAXTON, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS, AT THE MARKUP OF H.R. 3176, KEALIA POND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: APR. 6, 2000.

Today we are marking up H.R. 3176, pertaining to Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. This bill was introduced by our distinguished colleague, Patsy Mink (D-HI). This proposal would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the serious water management problems that currently exist at the 700-acre Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge in Maui, Hawaii. This refuge was created in 1992 to conserve habitat for endangered birds and to provide a wintering sanctuary for a variety of waterfowl species. Regrettably, it appears there is a problem in maintaining sufficient water levels and, as a result, the refuge has experienced fish kills and the breeding of swarms of annoying insects. It is time that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identify the problems and restore this pond to its natural state. I strongly support completing the study within one year, and I compliment Congresswoman Patsy Mink for her leadership in this matter.

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