

3/10/2008

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Subject: Up-date on Grant in Aid Request by Garden Island Resource, Conservation,  
and Development, Inc for funds to facilitate community acquisition of  
Coco Palms for a Hawaiian Cultural/Community Center

Since submitting the GIA request:

The steering committee for this project contacted OHA and Kamehameha Schools seeking their involvement as partners. OHA is well aware of the sight and its potential. Kamehameha's CEO toured the site with some of her staff (2/16/08). Both groups have expressed interest. More formal responses are pending.

The acquisition project remains a priority of the Kapaa/Wailua Community Development Plan update process.

SB 3221 requesting \$10 million towards acquisition of the site remains alive.

**FINGIA**

*west hawaii wildfire mgmt org.*

**From:** John Tarson [wvagn1@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2008 6:59 AM  
**To:** Rep. Marcus Oshiro; Sen. Roz Baker  
**Cc:** testimony; FINGIA  
**Subject:** Support for Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization

Please fund the Grant-in-Aid application submitted by the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization provides critical mitigation and planning services to the communities of Hawaii Island that protect communities and endangered natural resources.

They have been extremely helpful to the Waikoloa Village community in the time frame since the 25,000 acre wildfire of August 2005 that came to the edge of the village. They have provided planning and technical assistance which have resulted in both a grazing agreement for open lands surrounding the village and they have assisted with some grant funding to help start an abatement program which the Waikoloa Village Association has been aggressively funding for the past two years.

John Tarson  
General Manager  
Waikoloa Village Association