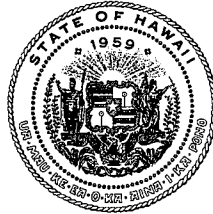
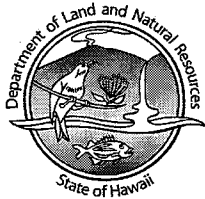


TESTIMONY

HB 2247

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

On House Bill 2247 – Relating To Historic Preservation

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND**

March 12, 2008

House Bill 2247 provides for an additional extension of time to acquire lands that are designated to become part of the South Kona Wilderness Area. The wilderness park designation in South Kona includes portions of the coastal areas within the ahupuaas of Honomalino, Okoe, Kaulanamauna, and Manuka, most of which are State-owned. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) notes that the privately owned lands that are the subject of the bill are located in Kapua, which is situated between Kaulanamauna and Manuka. While the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has doubts on whether a land exchange can be consummated.

On May 30, 2007, the Department met with representatives for the Kapua Landowners ("Landowner"). The purpose of this meeting was to identify acceptable public lands for purposes of a land exchange pursuant to Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003. Following subsequent analysis of Department files, however, the Landowner did not identify any public lands as being acceptable for purposes of a land exchange. Consequently, although the Department supports the designation of the South Kona Wilderness Area, it is unlikely that a land exchange is feasible.



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2247 Relating to Historic Preservation
Senate Committee on Water Land
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 414
testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov**

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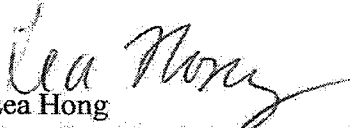
Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun and Committee members:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports HB 2247.

TPL is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting land for people, whether those lands are important cultural, recreational, ecological or scenic areas that add to our quality of life here in Hawai'i. TPL has successfully protected over 36,000 acres of our best-loved and most-used places throughout the Islands, including Pūpūkea-Paumalū on the North Shore of O'ahu, Wao Kele o Puna on Hawai'i Island, Lumaha'i Beach on Kaua'i, and Mū'olea Point in Hana on Maui.

TPL supports HB 2247 which would extend the window of opportunity for permanent protection of the culturally and naturally rich landscape contained within the South Kona Wilderness Area. HB 2247 preserves the opportunity for that bill to help secure and protect the historic lands at Kapu'a, an area that has been contemplated for preservation as a wilderness area and cultural preserve since the early 1970's by both the local community and the State Parks system. TPL is currently engaged in discussions with one of the owners of the four parcels, Jeff Stone, about the possible acquisition of Kapu'a, and is hopeful that an acquisition could be completed within the time frames of the extension proposed in HB 2247.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.


Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
The Trust For Public Land



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

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nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2247 Relating to Historic Preservation
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 2:45PM, Room 414

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for rare and endangered native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i and also work closely with government agencies and private landowners on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.B. 2247.

The proposed South Kona Wilderness Area will protect important cultural resources as well native dry land forest cover which is becoming increasingly rare throughout the state. The Conservancy looks forward to continuing to work with the State, the landowner, and other interested parties to achieve a successful land acquisition and establishment of this important conservation land area.

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TESTIMONY

HB 2247

(END)