

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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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

On House Bill 2874 – Relating To State Parks On Kauai

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 6, 2008

House Bill 2874 will establish a sub-account under the State Parks Special Fund into which 100% of the proceeds collected from the various fees at Kokee State Park and Waimea Canyon State Park, less any net amounts due to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, will be deposited and used to cover the cost of repair, maintenance, and operation at the Kokee State Park and Waimea Canyon State Park. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support House Bill 2874 because it would seriously impact the ability of the Department to maintain Hawaii's State Parks.

Currently there is insufficient revenue in the State Park Special Fund to pay for all the positions, repair and maintenance, and lifeguard services intended to be covered by the fund. Restricting the use of funds generated in a park will impact maintenance in others as a few parks generate most of the revenue for the State Parks, and some parks generate no revenue, and have little potential to ever generate revenue. The State has an obligation to provide access and park services to all our residents, regardless of whether they live in urban areas, rural communities, or near parks with high visitor traffic. Accordingly, the Department needs the ability to use funds from the few parks which generate revenue to support our operations statewide.

In order to make the most efficient use of limited resources, and to maximize flexibility, the Department is making a request for a lump sum CIP appropriation of \$5,000,000 for facility reconstruction and replacement improvements to State Parks. The benefit of lump sum appropriations is to allow us to redeploy cost savings from one project to complete other repair and maintenance projects. Creating sub-accounts defeats this sort of flexibility within the operating budget, and has the unfortunate unintended consequence of making parks statewide less efficient and in poorer condition. A measure passed last session which creates a sub-account for Diamond Head State Monument has already had the effect of hampering statewide operations.

The State Parks Special Fund expenditures in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 amounted to \$3,502,809. Estimated revenue for FY 2008 is \$2,057,815, with Kokee and Waimea Canyon projected to generate about \$300,000. This is expected to increase in future years with the issuance of new leases for cabins and concessions, and will help make up the shortfall. If deposited into a sub-account the shortfall will be exacerbated.

While we understand the reasoning behind intent of this measure, the Department does not support House Bill 2874 as it would seriously impact the ability of the Department to operate, maintain, and repair its parks statewide.

FINtestimony

From: Keone Kealoha [keone@malamakauai.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:39 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2874 Support

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair
Committee on Finance

Keone Kealoha
Malama Kaua'i
4900 Kuawa Road, Kilauea, HI 96754
(808) 828-0685

Tuesday, February 6, 2008
Support of HB 2874, RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUAI

Aloha kakou,
My name is Keone Kealoha and I am the Executive Director of Malama Kaua'i, a sustainability 501(c)3 organization based in Kilauea, Kaua'i.

I am offering written testimony in support of HB 2874, a bill that seeks to use 100% of proceeds collected from Koke'e and Waimea Parks earmarked for use for the upkeep of those specific parks respectively.

I do not agree that integrity of our parks should be compromised by the DLNR as "cash cows" to support other activities outside those parks. I believe the intent of this bill is to limit income generation to a sustainable level that makes sense for the maintenance of that park in which it is generate rather than to exploit their innate beauty and visitor traffic levels to pay for unrelated projects. To allow income to flow from these parks into unrestricted DLNR accounts is a recipe for unnecessary development.

Please support HB 2874.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration on this matter,

Keone Kealoha

Keone Kealoha
Director

Malama Kaua'i

808.828.0685 Office
808.634.8174 Mobile
808.828.0485 Fax
Email: keone@malamakauai.org
<http://www.MalamaKauai.org>

February 5, 2008

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
c/o FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Nancy J. Budd
Law Offices of Nancy J. Budd

Re: Support of H.B. 2874

This testimony is submitted in **support of H.B. 2874** which establishes a sub-account for the purpose of directing that funds collected at Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks be used for the purpose of repair, maintenance and operation of these parks.

During the past several years, the State has become increasingly interested in identifying certain state parks as moneymakers for the entire state park system. We have worked closely with the DLNR and have spent hundreds of hours analyzing the proposals contained in a proposed master plan for the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks that may be adopted in the next few months.

There is no question but that DLNR sees Koke'e and Waimea Canyon as a place to commercialize to support DLNR activities throughout the state. Proposals contained in the proposed master plan include an entry gate, concessions at the lookouts, tearing down the existing historic buildings at the Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow and replacing them with a visitor center and other facilities, identifying the entire area as a "revenue generation center."

Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks are fragile and contain unique native ecosystems, trails and historic-cultural qualities that are in danger of being compromised by commercialization and overuse. These parks have not been adequately maintained throughout the years and are in need of basic repair and maintenance. The parks' trails, facilities and infrastructure are in need quality restoration and ongoing maintenance and the parks' natural attributes need exceptional and vigilant protection.

Allocating the monies generated within these parks to their repair, maintenance and protection will serve both to maintain these precious places in their natural state for future generations and remove the incentive and pressure for the state to overdevelop and commercialize the parks for the purpose of generating revenue. Future funding of state park operations should not be dependent upon promoting commercial activities within the parks; these are our last remaining protected natural areas and should remain our gift to our children's children.

FINtestimony

From: Kitty Harding [kittyharding@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:29 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Ken Harding
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda #1

RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUAI.

FIN

Establishes a sub-account under the state parks special fund into which 100% of the proceeds collected from the various fees collected at the Kokee state park and Waimea canyon state park, less any net amounts due to OHA, will be deposited and used to cover the cost of repair, maintenance, and operation at the Kokee state park and Waimea canyon state park.

I would like to testify in favor of this bill. My husband and I have owned a cabin on leased land from the state since 1971. During that time the roads into our cabin property have deteriorated badly and in certain areas are almost undrivable. The ruts are so bad that a car could easily receive damage just from trying to get to our driveway entrance. To navigate the roads demands four wheel drive and we do not own such a vehicle. Debris from storms collects in the roads and is not removed properly. When we purchased the cabin, the roads were kept in decent condition back in the 1970's. I don't know where our lease money goes, but it's not in keeping up the roads in Kokee State Park. I hope this bill passes and that monies can be allocated to keep the back roads in decent condition.

Catharine K. Harding
Kokee Lease Holder

FINtestimony

From: Maria Maitino [mmaitino@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:40 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Support bills 2528and 2874

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to support Senate bills 2528 and 2874. both bills represent what I want to see done with revenues from the parks.

I support 2528, which directs that 100% of the proceeds collected from Koke`e and Waimea Canyon State parks will be used for repair and maintenance at Koke`e RATHER THAN BEING SENT INTO A STATEWIDE FUND for DLNR to use as it pleases.

I also support 2874 which clarifies that the state parks need to be preserved, not commercialized.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Maitino

FINtestimony

From: Margaret [drawpastels@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 4:31 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2874

Thank you for accepting this email as our testimony in FULL SUPPORT of HB2874 - we would very much like to see it pass.

Respectfully,

Margaret and Stephen Cull
P O Box 743
Waimea, HI 96796-0743

2/6/2008

FINtestimony

From: mamacool@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 7:39 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2874, SB2528

Please pass these bills to keep Kokee Park on Kauai out of the revenue source for the entire state park system. State revenues to improve, support, or subsidize particular parks should not come from other parks. Residents on Kauai know the big guys would favor their own, not us. Let each situation support itself. Thanks. Dr.Carolyn Manka, 1375 Hono Ohala Place, Kapaa, HI 96746

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FINtestimony

From: Michaella Mintcheff [misha@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 5:16 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2874, SB 2528, Kokee testimony

Dear representatives,

Our household is writing in support of HB 2874 and SB 2528.

SB 2528 directs that 100% of the proceeds collected from Kokee and Waimea Canyon State parks will be used for repair and maintenance at Kokee RATHER THAN BEING SENT INTO A STATEWIDE FUND for DLNR to use as it pleases.

HB 2873 is the companion to SB 2529.

This bill clarifies that the overriding purpose of the state park system is CONSERVATION. Unfortunately, the existing language, while clear, has been diluted to be meaningless. We need this additional language to clarify that our state parks must be preserved, not commercialized.

Sincerely,
Steve Perry, Ph.D., Michaella Mintcheff, Freeda Vance
4584 Laukona st. Lihue HI 96766

Frank O. Hay

6 February 2008: 1.30 pm in House Conference Room 308

**THE HON. MARCUS OSHIRO, CHAIR AND THE HON. MARILYN LEE, VICE
CHAIR, House Finance Committee**

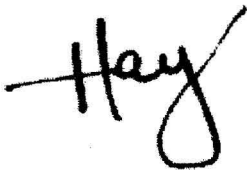
**TESTIMONY OF FRANK O. HAY, in strong support of House Bill 2874: Establishing a
sub-account under the state parks special fund for Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State
Parks**

I strongly support House Bill 2874. I believe that it is important to keep revenues from the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon Parks in a special fund to support these parks. Parks on Kauai – and indeed throughout the State have been grossly under-funded. In fact, it is likely that several major public facilities, including the Koke'e and Pu'u Ka Pele pavilions, might have closed without substantial volunteer effort, led by leaseholders and friends.

State Parks staff tell us that the revenue from our recreational residence leases and The Lodge at Koke'e almost directly offset the entire operations and maintenance budget of the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks.

I recognize that other parks on Kauai have no revenue sources. As a result, I propose that the bill be changed so that, at minimum, seventy-five per cent of all proceeds collected from concessions, leases, and commissions, as well as other user fees, charged at or for Koke'e or Waimea canyon state park, less any net amounts due to the office of Hawaiian affairs, be deposited into the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks sub-account.

Very respectfully,



**P. O. Box 9
Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii 96752-0009
voice 1.808.639.7704**

FINtestimony

From: Donn Carswell [curly@aloha.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 1:47 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Rep. Roland Sagum
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda #1

WE SUPPORT HB2874 . IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP ALL REVENUES FROM THE KOKE'E AND WAIMEA CANYON STATE PARKS IN A SPECIAL FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARKS. THE PARKS HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN UNDERFUNDED ON KAUAI AND HAVE HAD TO RELY ON VOLUNTEER LABOR AND DONATED MATERIALS TO KEEP THE STANDARDS UP. KOKE'E IS A SPECIAL PLACE AND DESERVES TO BE MAINTAINED TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, EQUIVALENT TO THE NATIONAL PARKS, OR STATE PARKS IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON.

THE REVENUE FROM THE RECREATIONAL LEASES AND LODGE SUPPORTS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE IN FIVE WEST SIDE STATE PARKS. PRESENT MANNING LEVELS ALLOW FOR LITTLE MORE THAN EMPTYING THE GARBAGE.

WE RECOMMEND IN LINE WITH HB 2872 THAT STATE PARKS DIVISION MAXIMIZE REVENUE WITH:

- 1) A MODEST INCREASE IN LEASE RENT ON THE PRESENT RECREATIONAL LEASES,
- 2) AN IMMEDIATE AUCTION OR DRAWING OF THE 14 CABINS AND 21 LOTS AT KOKE'E THAT THE STATE HAS IN INVENTORY.
- 3) A TAX ON U DRIVES EITHER AT THE AIRPORT OR AT AN ENTRY POINT TO WAIMEA CANYON STATE PARK WHICH GOES DIRECTLY TO THE PARKS SPECIAL FUND.

THANK YOU,

DONN & GALE CARSWELL
LOT 61 KOKE'E CAMP LOTS

FINtestimony

From: RITA PEETERS [r.eaglepeak@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 12:57 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda #1

I support HB2874.

Koke'e State Park has been in a very poor maintenance condition for far too many years due to lack of funds. The main roads are full of pot holes that wreak havoc with auto tires and alignment. The trails need maintaining and signs. The dirt roads need signage that tell people that they are dead ends or four wheel drive only, and signs at the beginning of such dirt roads that indicate trail heads off of those roads. The park needs a complete new water system done by professionals, due to constant leakages and lead in the water (many of the leasehold cabins went without water for most of 2007). The park's present condition is an embarrassment when it should be one of the state's biggest pride and joy.

If the monies collected from leases and concessions within Koke`e are allowed to be designated for Koke`e only, and not in a general fund, this would certainly help toward bringing the park up to par of being the jewel that it is.

Sincerely,

Rita Peeters

2/5/2008

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-chair
Committee on Finance

Wayne J. Jacintho

Wednesday, February 5, 2008

Support of HB 2874 RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUAI

Chair Oshiro, Vice-chair Lee, Members of the Committee,

My name is «GreetingLine». I am a lifelong resident of Kaua'i, and I am testifying in support of HB 2874.

As a leaseholder, as an adopt-a-park volunteer, I have long argued, at the Legislature and at countless public hearings, that funds generated within Kokee/Waimea Canyon State Parks should remain within these 2 parks.

Keeping these funds withing these 2 parks will not only solve the longstanding problems of badly needed repairs, ongoing maintenance and upkeep of roads, trails, and signage, as well as the lack of proper equipment and manpower.

Freed of the financial burden of these 2 upland parks, State Parks Kauai can use funds currently allotted to West Kauai to better maintain the other parks there, ESPECIALLY Polihale State Park.

I urge you to pass HB 2874.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Wayne J. Jacintho
Kalaheo, Kaua'i

FINtestimony

From: Linda F. Collins [lfc@kikiaola.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 10:56 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Rep. Roland Sagum
Subject: HB2874

I AM IN SUPPORT OF HB 2874 RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUAI

It is important to establish a sub-account under the state parks special fund into which 100% of the proceeds collected from the various fees collected at the Kokee state park and Waimea canyon state park, less any net amounts due to OHA, will be deposited and used to cover the cost of repair, maintenance, and operation at the Kokee state park and Waimea canyon state park.

All Kauai citizens who use the park and those citizens that lease Kokee and Waimea Canyon recreational cabins deserve to have the various fees collected there to cover the cost of repair, maintenance, and operation of those areas.

Linda Collins

FINtestimony

From: Gaylord Wilcox [wilcoxg001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 10:59 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda #1

I support the bill. Gaylord Wilcox

2/5/2008

FINtestimony

From: Rosa & Hugh & Zane & Lex [rosa.hugh@usa.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 12:42 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda

please deliver copies as needed.

Feb 5, 2008

I am a resident of Kilauea, Kauai and I support HB 2874.

Thank you,

Rosa Russell

2/5/2008

FINtestimony

From: Edward Wels [strabo@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 6:22 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2874 Agenda #1

Aloha!,

I have been a registered voter on Oahu for 20 years. I never miss a chance to vote.

I am strongly in support of HB 2874. Surely Waimea canyon and Kokee park merit at least the same treatment as Diamond Head if not more.

Thank-you,
Edward Wels
Honolulu

FINtestimony

From: Basil Mayo [diandbas@hawaiian.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 9:14 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB 2874

Dear Sirs, I, and my friends I talk to, totally support HB 2874 so that the monies generated in the Kokee and Waimea State Parks on Kauai will be used to improve these very Parks instead of the funds being siphoned off to other parks in the State. The Bathrooms facilities in these parks had been neglected to the point that the LeaseHolders plus other helpful persons have done huge repairs and clean-ups on all the bathroom facilities and other state owned bldgs during the last 3-4 years. We need the funds from these parks to take care of these areas. Mahalo,

B. Mayo

Kauai resident

FINtestimony

From: Harmony Scott [harmonyscott@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 2:55 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: In support of HB2874

I am writing in support of HB2874. I grew up on the island of Kaua'I, and spent much of my childhood exploring the forests and canyons of Kokee. I am not a leaseholder myself, but have been fortunate enough to spend time in friend's cabins. Kokee is such a unique, beautiful, and special place and I strongly believe that the monies collected from the cabin leases, concession rents, and lodge rentals should stay in Kokee to help fund maintenance, and upkeep in order to preserve it for the animals and plants that already call it home, and for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments,

Respectfully,

Harmony Scott
199 Main St.
Carbondale, Colorado 81623
970-379-3978

FINtestimony

From: Cinda diRaimondo [cindadiraimondo@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 4:08 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: HB2874

Aloha,

I support HB2874 and would like to see it pass.

Thank-you,
Cinda diRaimondo

Need to know the score, the latest news, or you need your Hotmail®-get your "fix". [Check it out.](#)

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4396 RICE STREET, ROOM 206
 LIHUE, KAUA'I, HAWAII 96766-1371
 E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

TESTIMONY OF COUNCILMEMBER JOANN A. YUKIMURA
 KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
 ON
 H.B. No. 2874, RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUA'I
 House Committee on Finance
 February 6, 2008
 1:30 p.m.
 Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

I submit this testimony as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council. I support H.B. No. 2874 which would allow for the creation of a new plan for Kōke'e leaseholds and for the exploration of a historical designation for qualifying cabins or districts.

The present proposal to lease cabins based on the highest bidder would treat Kōke'e lands like most privately owned lands on Kaua'i and in Hawai'i, but Kōke'e lands are different. They are a publicly owned resource, and they need to be managed according to their highest and best use—first as a precious resource and second, for the people of Kaua'i and Hawai'i. This is a difficult balance to strike; and one thing is clear— the present proposal is not the solution. More time and thought needs to be spent on the issue involving all the stakeholders and focused on what is best for Kaua'i and Hawai'i on a long-term basis.

I do not believe five (5) years is necessary and would advocate a shorter planning timeframe.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

JoAnn A. Yukimura
 Councilmember

FINtestimony

From: Maria Maitino [mmaitino@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 10:40 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Support bills 2528and 2874

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to support Senate bills 2528 and 2874. both bills represent what I want to see done with revenues from the parks.

I support 2528, which directs that 100% of the proceeds collected from Koke`e and Waimea Canyon State parks will be used for repair and maintenance at Koke`e RATHER THAN BEING SENT INTO A STATEWIDE FUND for DLNR to use as it pleases.

I also support 2874 which clarifies that the state parks need to be preserved, not commercialized.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Maitino