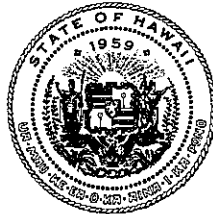
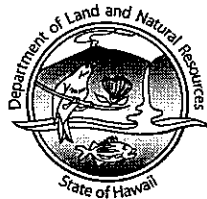


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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LAURA H. THIELEN
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

On Senate Bill 2528, Senate Draft 1 – Relating To State Parks On Kauai

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

February 25, 2008

Senate Bill 2528, Senate Draft 1 would 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 this measure because it would seriously impact the ability of the Department to maintain Hawaii's State Parks for all of Hawaii's residents.

Over the years, fundamental park services once covered by the General Fund, have had to be covered by the State Parks Special Fund. Currently there is insufficient revenue in the State Parks 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 one park will impact maintenance in other parks even those on the same island, 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 Capitol Improvement Project 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.

Many parks generate little or no revenue, but benefit from the State Parks Special Fund. If this measure is passed it is likely that recently hired special funded park maintenance personnel will be laid off. In addition, this fiscal year, over \$715,000 in special funds is budgeted to pay for lifeguard services in four parks. Altogether those parks generate less than \$50,000. Creation of sub-accounts for other parks will raise the possibility of insufficient funds for lifeguard services.

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

testimony

From: Fred Dente [koikoi1@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 3:43 PM
To: testimony
Subject: S.B. 2528

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
c/o testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov">testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Fred Dente

Re: Support of S.B. 2528

I'm writing this testimony in support of S.B. 2528 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 the those Kaua'i parks, and not be diverted into a statewide account. We need all the revenue here on Kaua'i.

Mahalo, Fred Dente

P.O. Box 974 Kapa`a, Hi 96746 808-651-2815

testimony

From: Laurel Brier [browerr001@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 2:32 PM

To: testimony

Subject: support SB 2528SD1

The people of Kaua`i do not want Koke`e commercialized. We want it protected and preserved from further destruction. It is presently available for all to enjoy minus cold sodas at every turn. Please do what is pono.

Laurel Brier & family
Anahola, Kaua`i

testimony

From: nunyabus [inunyabus@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 6:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2528 COMM. ON WAYS & MEANS

Elaine Dunbar
P.O. Box 861
Lihue, HI 96766

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB2528

Section I, 2. (d) is incomplete. There is no percentage amount filled in for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. How do you expect people to haphazardly approve something like this?

This needs to be brought back another year because, being incomplete and no determination yet made for Kokee, decision making now is out of order.

Kill it. Please.

February 22, 2008

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

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

Re: Support of S.B. 2528

These comments are submitted to urge passage of **S.B. 2528** which establishes a sub-account for the purpose of directing that an unspecified percentage of funds collected at Kōke`e and Waimea Canyon State Parks be used for the purpose of repair, maintenance and operation of these parks. **We urge that 100% of the funds collected be directed toward support of these parks.**

During the past several years, the DLNR has become increasingly interested in identifying premier state parks as primary sources of revenue for a myriad of DLNR activities: *Kōke`e and Waimea Canyon are considered to have tremendous revenue generating potential to support DLNR activities throughout the state.*

We have spent hundreds of hours reviewing the proposed master plan for these parks. DLNR proposals include an entry fee booth, permanent concessions at the lookouts, tearing down existing historic buildings at the Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow to replace them with a visitor center, commercial ventures, and other facilities, identifying the entire area as a **“revenue generation center.”**

Kōke`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, which is the duty of DLNR, and to 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.

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2008

10:30 a.m. Room 211

Testimony in opposition to SB 2528 SD1

I am an employee of DLNR however the testimony that follows is that of my own as an individual.

SB 2528 SD1 seeks to set up a sub account within the State Parks Special Fund and further seeks to restrict revenues from Kaua'i State Parks to remain on Kaua'i.

While this may seem to be a good idea at first glance, one must understand that the State Parks system is a state -wide program with responsibilities for all state parks.

There are many State Parks that can never generate enough funds to maintain themselves. By requiring the establishment of sub accounts, the legislature restricts the management options, of State Parks Managers.

Smaller Parks on all islands may have to be closed and staff reduced due to the lack of revenue produced by the larger parks remaining at the larger Parks.

Rather than restricting the options to State Parks managers, please keep the present system in place until such time that all of the smaller parks can pay for themselves. Please hold SB 2528 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 2528 SD1.

William J. Aila Jr.