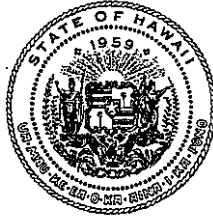
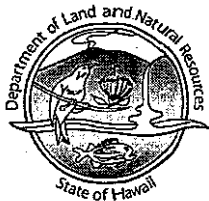


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

On Senate Bill 2528 – Relating To State Parks On Kauai

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

January 28, 2008

Senate Bill 2528 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 Senate Bill 2528 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 Senate Bill 2528 as it would seriously impact the ability of the Department to operate, maintain, and repair its parks statewide.

LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee
Senator Russell Kokubun

Aloha - I am writing in favor of SB 2528, which establishes a sub-account for the purpose of directing funds collected at Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks be used for the purpose of repair, maintenance and operation of these parks.

I am a 33 year resident of Kaua'i and have had the pleasure of experiencing the wonders of the forest on many occasions through use of friends cabins, several hikes with Dave Boynton and attending several festivals in the Meadow but no visit to the mountains has had a more profound effect on me than my most recent.

The last part of 2007 was very busy for me and my work with three off Island trips and several holiday work assignments with quick turn a rounds. And I really felt the stress, enough so that a visit to the E.R. was necessary. A few days later we were blessed to spend five days and four nights at a friends cabin in the mountains and my body and spirit went through a dramatic transition, largely because of the peace, serenity and calmness of Koke'e. We walked around the Meadow several times, fed the chickens, visited the Museum and ate at the Lodge. But mostly sat in the cabin, read, talked and light the fire. Simple activities that meant so much.

The Parks of Koke'e and Waimea are very, very special and need to be preserved and maintained with minimal commercial activity.

Senate Bill 2528, allocating funds collected in the Parks to stay in the Parks will help preserve this jewel of the Hawaiian Islands for generations to come as a place of peace and healing.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Zelkovsky

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2008
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

DATE: January 28, 2008
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
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SB 2528

Testimony

RELATING TO STATE PARKS ON KAUAL.

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.

Aloha Chair Senator Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun and Water and Land Committee members,

People on Kaua'i turned out in large numbers at the DLNR meetings here to ask that Koke'e State Park and Waimea Canyon State Park be preserved in their natural state and to keep the parks from becoming commercialized. Supporting SB 2528 would achieve our island residents' goal of maintaining this pristine wilderness by covering costs related to that effort.

Please pass SB 2528 to protect and preserve the most beautiful and unique park in the state for all to enjoy as a place of natural wilderness.

Thank you,

Judy Dalton
4330 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue, HI 96766
tel. 808-246-9067

From: Ulu Perreira [mailto:uperreira@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 12:28 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support of S.B. 2528

January 28, 2008

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

From: Ululani Perreira

Re: Support of S.B. 2528

Aloha,

This testimony is submitted 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 these parks.

Born and raised on our beautiful 'Garden Island' of Kauai prompts me to write this letter in support of S.B. 2528. Our family and friends visit these parks regularly and the maintenance of it is necessary to the public use. It is obvious that funds generated by these parks remain in an account for repair, maintenance and operation.

Our precious Koke'e depend on community servants such as yourself to protect it! We as a community are also doing our best to take care of it and protect it. Please join us.

Mahalo...

LATE TESTIMONY

to: Legislature's Public Access Room

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2008

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414 State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.

To: Senator Clayton Hee,
Chair

Senator Russell S.
Kokubun, Vice Chair
Committee on Water
and Land

c/o

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

We submit this email in SUPPORT of SB2528.

Thank you for accepting this email as our testimony in support of SB2528.

Sincerely,
Stephen D. and Margaret E. Cull
P O BOX 743
WAIMEA, HI 96796-0743
808 338 1373

January 28, 2008

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

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

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This testimony is submitted 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 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair

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