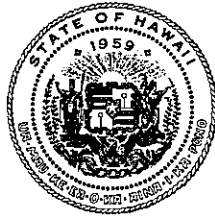
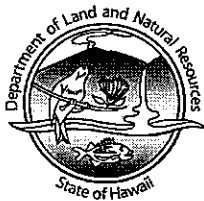


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
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Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Commission on Water Resource Management

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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  
Kahooolawe Island Reserve Commission  
Land  
State Parks

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

On Senate Bill 3221, Senate Draft 1 – Relating To The Coco Palms Resort

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

February 25, 2008

Senate Bill 3221, Senate Draft 1 calls for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to develop partnerships with public agencies and non-profit organizations to plan for the acquisition and operation of the Coco Palms Resort in Wailua, Kaua'i as a public historical park and cultural education center to preserve the site and benefit the native Hawaiian culture. The bill appropriates \$500,000 for the planning and another \$10,000,000 in general obligation funds to match other sources of funding for the acquisition of the 12.63-acre property. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure because of the potential benefits to the park visitor and the Hawaiian community, the Department nonetheless has serious concerns with the fiscal impacts this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request and on future capital and operations budgets.

The Coco Palms Resort is adjacent to Wailua River State Park and together, these *makai* areas in Wailua constituted one of the two chiefly complexes on Kaua'i, the other being at Waimea. The Coco Palms Resort is also significant for several historic properties, including the large inland fishpond and the coconut grove.

In developing a plan for Malae Heiau, one of the *heiau* of the Wailua Complex of Heiau located within Wailua River State Park, the desire for a Hawaiian cultural center was expressed by the community. The Department's Division of State Parks has also discussed the need for a visitor center for Wailua River State Park, a large park encompassing over 1,000 acres with many widely dispersed facilities. Initial discussions centered on renovation of the existing Wailua Marina complex or a partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands which now has the land around Malae Heiau. While the Coco Palms Resort offers another location for the Hawaiian community to perpetuate their cultural traditions, there are many things to be considered before making a decision to acquire such land for those purposes, including: 1) The cost of such acquisition which would necessarily reduce the State's ability to move other State Park projects forward; 2) The feasibility of renovating or reconstructing the buildings to have them function for park purposes; 3) Interest from the community to operate such a facility; and

4) The financial resources available to make the acquisition, development and operation of the site a viable project. Again, while the Department appreciates the intent of this measure, the Department has serious concerns about the State's ability to pursue this matter in this period of reduced revenues.

## testimony

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**From:** Wendy Raebeck [wendywailua@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2008 5:25 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

RE: SB 3221

"Ways and Means"  
Feb. 25, 2008  
10:30 am

Dear Senator Baker,

Thank you for your work so far in moving this Bill forward. And please do support the acquisition of the Coco Palms property.

This sacred land is not only beautiful, but powerful. I see it as a nature sanctuary, where people can quietly walk and sit in harmony with nature -- rather than dominating it, as we are accustomed to. It would warm my heart if we had the kind of leadership to make something like this come true. What a precedent we'd be setting....for the whole world to see what it's like to actually stop, take a breath, see the beauty around us, and give our thanks to creation.

I give my thanks to you!

Wendy Raebeck

ps I'm in Asia right now, and just seeing what a mess people have made of this world makes me deeply cherish what we still have in Hawai'i. We MUST protect every inch of it that we can.

**testimony**

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**From:** Bali Hai Weddings [balihai.weddings@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2008 2:56 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Hooser  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB-3221 - COCO PALMS / Sen. R. Baker

Subject: SB-3221 - COCO PALMS

Aloha Senator Rosalyn Baker,

My lively hood depends on the visitor industry. I've run a successful wedding business for over 15 years.  
[www.kauai-wedding.com](http://www.kauai-wedding.com)

Coco Palms would be such an asset to the local community and visitors alike to share the culture, history of the Hawaiian people.

Outdoor concerts would afford a wonderful opportunity for our many talented musicians . Live theater, art shows , Keiki talent shows , **Kupuna housing and social center.**

Let bring back our community !

I personally would be willing to help raise funds . Have my own wheel barrow and rake for clean up !

**Mahalo for voting "YES" on Bill SB-3221.**

Marcia Sacco / Bali Hai Weddings  
808-640-5761