



## **Kilauea Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 328 Kilauea, Hawaii 96754

2-6-08

### **Regarding Senate Bill 3221 Relating to the Coco Palms Resort**

Hearing to be on Saturday, February 9, 2008

Committee of Water and Land (WLT) Chairman Russell Kokuban, Vice Chairman Jill Tokuda

Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) Chairman Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chairman Shan S. Tsutsui

Dear Chairman Russell Kokuban, Vice Chair Jill Tokuda, Chairwoman Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and members of the Senate Water and Land and Ways and Means Committees:

**The Board of the Kilauea Neighborhood Association of Kilauea, Kauai strongly supports Senate Bill 3321.** We endorse the goal of acquiring the lands of the Coco Palms Resort in order to establish a public historical park and cultural education center to preserve and benefit the native Hawaiian culture. This deeply historic and beautiful place holds meaning and significance to all of us on Kaua'i and, indeed, throughout Hawai'i Nei.

The Kilauea Neighborhood Association was established in 1984. This inclusive organization represents and furthers community interests from the Moloaa through Anini. Our board is comprised of 14 members who unanimously voted to send this letter.

The KNA recognizes that preservation of the Coco Palms site for community purposes (with appropriate emphasis on native Hawaiian cultural perpetuation) is a large, expensive undertaking. We therefore appreciate the emphasis of SB 3221 on 1) utilizing matching funding, 2) partnering both for acquisition and operations and 3) appropriating \$500,000 in order to plan and prepare for purchase and creation of appropriate community-based operating and management entity.

Thank you so much for your attention and continued efforts on such important issues.

Respectfully and with aloha

Linda Pasadava, President

**testimony**

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**From:** Ken Posney [kenposney@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 2:28 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Haunani  
**Subject:** Testimony: SB3221 Coco Palms

**DATE:**  
Saturday, February 9, 2008

**TIME:**  
11:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY**

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is currently looking at developing residential homes, mauka, near the Aloha Beach Resort, across the Wailua River from the Coco Palms. The makai side, a proposal is being submitted and seriously being evaluated, to develop timeshares to help finance these mauka residential properties.

A second proposal has been suggested to develop a Hawaiian Cultural center, similar to the Polynesian Cultural Center, to help finance the Hawaiian Homes.

It seems to me, this sacred Wailua area, could easily turn out to be a timeshare development zone. We've seen how this came very close to happening at the Coco Palms. This is, again, very close to happening, across the highway, with DHHL.

...or we could do the right thing and preserve this culturally significant area by providing an educational opportunity, not only for our tourists, but for the local population. I see a cultural center/park and/or historical setting at the old Coco Palms location, in conjunction with a significant cultural center across the highway, generating income for the Hawaiian Homes developer, the State and County of Kaua'i.

Ken Posney

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2/6/2008



## KAUA'I PUBLIC LAND TRUST

Senator Clayton Hee  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun  
Committee on Water And Land  
Kaua'i Public Land Trust

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Support of SB 3221, Coco Palms Resort; Board of Land and Natural Resources;  
Appropriation

The Kaua'i Public Land Trust is private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Kaua'i's "places of the heart" for the benefit of the public. We strongly support S.B. No. 3221, Relating to the Coco Palms Resort, which would appropriate matching funds for the board of land and natural resources in partnership with other public and private non-profit entities to acquire the Coco Palms Resort and convert it into a public historical park and cultural education center to preserve and benefit native Hawaiian culture.

A rare site in the Hawaiian archipelago that holds importance for many historical periods, the Coco Palms Resort was shuttered and left untouched since Hurricane `Iniki in 1992. Home to a group of sacred sites called the Wailua Complex of Heiau, the rich history and beauty of this place are in desperate need of restoration. A cultural education center and park would restore this site to its historic role as a public gathering place for cultural enrichment, spiritual nourishment, land conservation and historic preservation.

We urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 3221. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Luck  
Executive Director

## testimony

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**From:** Stan Koga [firestopr@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 12:21 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** coco palms park & cultural center

I am writing this email to let you know that I am in favor of transforming the Coco Palms property into a park/ cultural center. This would be a wonderful use and also would be of great direct benefit to the actual residents of this island. As is common knowledge, the entire Wailua river area is considered to be sacred. I believe that the new park could serve the community, not just as a whole , but also more specifically our native hawaiians as a place to regain and or refresh their contact with their culture and heritage. In so doing, it could also provide the service of being a gateway to further cross-cultural education and enlightenment between visitors, new comers and long time residents of Kauai that are of open heart and mind.

I am sure that, by far, the greatest obstacle will be that of a financial nature--how do we buy it? Where will funds for maintenance and up keep come from? etc...

These are the challenges that you, our elected leaders, will have to spear-head with help and enthusiasm from both the private sectors and the general public as a whole. At the very least great time and effort should be spent to fully examine and explore all possible avenues for making this happen. In a the tidal wave of rampant commercial development, either in the planning stages, already in progress or completed, let this one area stand out as an island of aloha and positive achievement for the people of Kauai.

Mahalo and Aloha, Stan Koga

1420 Kanepoonui rd.  
Kapaa, Hi.  
96746

## testimony

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**From:** Cynthia Libert [islandgirl65@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 11:54 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

I think it would be great to see Coco Palms turn into a cultural center! What a historical place to serve both visitors and local people! Those of us who hold special memories of Coco Palms, whether it be a wedding, anniversary, receiving gifts at Christmas time from former owner Grace Guslander for all the employees children at the hotel, are just a few stories to share. Oahu has the Polynesian Cultural Center. Why not Coco Palms be a place for gatherings? I would like to see its rooms dedicated to preserving the past, a restaurant or hall just for parties, keep the chapel for weddings, plantation like rooms to accommodate visitors, beautiful gardens, and maybe bring back the zoo. There used to be a place where we'd see peacocks.  
Imagine this place thriving again! I can.

## testimony

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**From:** David Fletcher [david.fletcher@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 2:55 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 3221

I am in favor of SB 3221. I think it would be a great gift to the people of kauai. With so much of our island being taken away this is the right thing to do. Please pass this bill and do something good for the people of Kauai.

Mahalo, Dave Fletcher

Kalaheo, HI.

## testimony

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**From:** Bartrabbit@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 4:52 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms, Kauai

As a previous resident of Kauai, may I please express my strong belief that the very best treatment of the Coco Palms property is to turn it into a historical park and cultural center. There could be no better use for the property. If a fund were set up to help finance this project, I would donate to it. Grace Guslander would be so pleased to know her beloved Coco Palms was finally being cared for and appreciated. My thanks to Gary Hooser.

Jean Barton, former Kauai resident, now living in Sun City West, Arizona (Bartrabbit@aol.com)

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Who's never won? [Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.](#)

## testimony

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**From:** beverly gorsline [bevyg@ptd.net]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 4:58 AM

**To:** testimony

This is concerning the bill to acquire Coco Palms for a historical park. I'll make it short and to the point. With all the greed and destruction and construction going on in Kauai this is desperately needed for balance. And, we all know how important balance is in life. Aloha, Beverly Gorsline

[bevyg@ptd.net](mailto:bevyg@ptd.net)



**testimony**

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**From:** J. Kimo Reyes [j.kimoreyes@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:19 AM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221

To: Senate Committee on Water and Land

In regards to Bill 3221 introduced by Sen. Gary Hooser; I am in support of this bill to perserve The Coco Palms resort as a state park. It is considered a significant historical site to Hawaiians and should be honored as such. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo  
J.Kimo Reyes  
Anahola, HI

2/8/2008

## testimony

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**From:** Melissa Gibson [alohamelissag@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 9:18 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** ATTN SB 3221

Aloha

This letter is in regards to making Coco Palms a protected cultural site and community park. I have always thought that there could never be a hotel that could replace the Coco Palms. It is and was a special place. When you went there you were welcomed and entertained with open arms. The Coco Palms was the true aloha. Please help to preserve and protect this beautiful property so that many generations can enjoy such a sacred and special place. It is a gem to the community and would be cared for, for many years. Please help us preserve a piece of paradise for us, not the rich or visitors, but for us the hard working people of Kauai. Please vote to protect and preserve the Coco Palms Property for a cultural community park.

Mahalo for your time

Melissa Gibson

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## testimony

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**From:** Becky Wold [artofmarbling@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:36 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms Cultural Park

To whom it may concern:

What an excellent idea to turn the old Coco Palms property into a cultural park. Without a doubt, this is an idea that can benefit all ... visitors, locals, even the state government! It would be an appropriate marriage of the ancient Hawaiian historical use of the area and the 20th century history created by the Guslanders (and the Rivera family).

Interestingly enough, at my shop today (Feb 7), in Hanapepe, I met a man named Heinz and his wife Lillianna who told me that he was the designer of the Coco Palms, so many years ago. He also designed the old Waiohai ... Iniki was very hard on his work. Lillianna said it was quite difficult to see the Coco Palms looking like that. I wish I knew then that this idea was being presented so I could have told them.

Thank you Gary Hooser for presenting this bill.

Good Luck!!!

Becky Wold  
Hanapepe, Kaua'i

**Wailua-Kapaa Neighborhood Association**

VIA FAX: 800-586-7334 or 808-586-6659  
TO: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
FOR: Committee on Land and Water  
HEARING DATE: Saturday, February 9, 2008; 11:00 a.m.; Conference Room 229

February 7, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 3221 - IN SUPPORT OF COCO PALMS RESORT APPROPRIATION

Dear Senator Hee,

Many East Kaua'i residents have asked about preserving the Coco Palms property as a significant cultural, spiritual and historical Hawaiian site. The Wailua-Kapa'a Neighborhood Association (W-KNA) board strongly supports SB 3221 and is hopeful that partnerships between nonprofit organizations and State agencies will acquire this property for that purpose.

The ancestral home of Kaua'i's Ali'i, the historic fishponds and coconut grove all merit protection. Acquisition of Coco Palms would complement the surrounding Wailua River Valley heiau sites, State Park and Beach Reserve. We believe this proposal would benefit the far greatest number of people.

Many residents island-wide agree that this makes good sense especially since the re-development of Coco Palms Resort has not materialized since 1992. Although some community members believe that reconstructing the resort would bring back the past, it is unlikely that the nostalgia of that era would be achieved based on the current building permits.

At a recent meeting of the Kaua'i County Citizen Advisory Committee of the East Kauai Development Plan it was noted that both the General Plan and the Development Plan envision a cultural resource center for Wailua-Kapa'a. The consensus was in favor this site being used in this way.

Please support the community's commitment to this vision through the appropriation of matching funds to acquire Coco Palms for purposes of a park/cultural center.

Respectfully submitted,



Sid Jackson  
W-KNA Secretary  
340 Aina Uka Place, Kapa'a 96746  
821-2837

**"We Treasure our Rural Communities"**

## testimony

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**From:** Sharon Britt [olashanalei@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:10 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** senate bill 3221

To the Hawaii Senate:

Ever since hurricane Iniki, my husband and I have driven past CoCo Palms and said out loud, "WOULD'NT IT BE GREAT, IF THE STATE TURNED THIS LAND INTO A PARK'!!

What a wonderful thing to do for the people of Hawaii. Perhaps this park could help tip the scale of what has been taken away from the people for so many years. Perhaps it could promote some good will between the government and the people. Perhaps it could be a real and lasting legacy of this senate, it could be a project that could perpetuate goodness in these islands for generations to come. This is a project that could honor the human spirit. From time to time progress should be in the form preserving our heritage.

Thank-you for considering such a marvel thing. Hopefully you can all step up to the bat and hit a home run to preserve this beautiful, historical piece of Kauai.

Sharon Britt  
P.O. 175  
Hanalei, Hi. 96714

**testimony**

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**From:** Juan Wilson [juanwilson@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 7:52 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Strong Support for SB 3221

Senate Committee on Water & Land

Chair: Senator Clayton Hee

Vice-Chair Russell Kokuun

As an architect and planner living on Kauai I am in strong support of the plan to convert the Coco Palms Resort site into a park focussed on the history and culture of Hawaii. It is the most appropriate use of this land.

As it is the property is an eyesore to everyone passing it. The previous development plans would have added density and traffic to what is already a bottleneck on the island.

Please enact this legislation.

Juan Wilson  
Architect-Planner  
PO Box 949  
Hanapepe HI 96716  
(808) 335-0733

## testimony

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**From:** Jon Afalla [jonnybgood@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 7:26 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Hooser; Carl Miura  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

Aloha,

My name is Capt Jon Afalla and I live in Kilauea on the island of Kaua'i. This email is in support of Senator Hooser's proposal to acquire the Coco Palms property and transforming it into a park. I am also in strong favor of a cultural center as the focal point for the property.

I was born and raised on the island of Oahu, but have been a resident of Kaua'i the past 30 years. I have worked in the tourist industry most of my life and I interact with visitors on a daily basis. There is always visitor interest in the Coco Palms. It has become virtually a historical landmark that visitors look forward to visiting. You can compare Pearl Harbor as one of the most popular visitor attractions for the island of Oahu. Well, Coco Palms is popular with the visitors to the island of Kaua'i and it has been inaccessible to most since 1992 after hurricane Iniki.

The island of Kaua'i is going through growing pains when you consider the population growth, the traffic tie-up's, etc. It would be beneficial to the County & State to consider creating a venture to generate revenue to assist in the many changes that Kaua'i has to endure to address these growing pains. It is for the benefit of the residents of Kaua'i and to the visitors looking forward to experiencing the property for not only it's historical movie background, but also the rich Hawaiian culture and history of the area and of the island of Kaua'i.

THIS is my testimony,  
Capt Jon Afalla



February 8, 2008

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The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Water & Land  
Hawai'i State Senate

**In SUPPORT of SB3221 Relating to the Coco Palms Resort**

Dear Senator Hee,

From the mists of time, Wailua Nui a Ho'ano—Great Sacred Wailua—was a place of the greatest religious and cultural significance. Hikinaakala Heiau, Malae Heiau, Holoholoku Heiau, Pohaku Hoochanau, Poliahu Heiau and the renowned royal Bellstone are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Wailua Complex of Heiau National Historic Landmark.

In the first half of the 19th century, the last reigning Kaua'i Chiefess Deborah Kapule maintained her residence in the area, on what is now Coco Palms, feeding and housing guests and providing a center for religious services there. In the twentieth century that land, including the state-owned coconut grove and Kapule's ancient fishpond, was transformed into the famed Coco Palms Resort, where the now commonly performed "torch lighting ceremony" in hotels around Hawai'i was conceived, and where Elvis Presley and other stars of the era came to make movies and enjoy a frolic "in paradise."

The area remains a place of reverence by those whose roots travel deep into this land. We fully support the Hawai'i State Legislature's leadership to acquire the former Coco Palms land, and to work with other public and/or nonprofit entities to "manage and operate a public historical park and cultural education center" that would serve to preserve and to benefit the people of Hawai'i.

Please vote to support SB3221 and protect this cherished place forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat L. Griffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "G".

Pat L. Griffin, President  
Lihue Business Association

*Lihue - the  
Heart of Kaua'i*

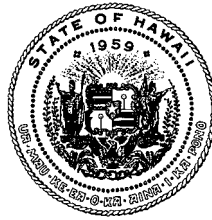
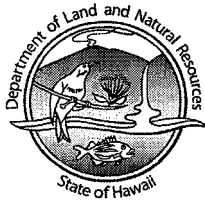
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**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON**  
**OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

On Senate Bill 3221 – Relating To The Coco Palms Resort

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

February 9, 2008

Senate Bill 3221 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) supports 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 supports 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:** Sherwood.C.Conant(  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 7:34 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** letters@kauaipubco.com  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221-Coco Palms,Kauai

I humbly ask your support of Senate Bill 3221(Coco Palms) introduced by Senator Gary Hooser. The Coco palms area is part of an ancient and sacred area consisting of fish ponds, heieaus, village area, and taro patches to name a few. If a park were made on the site of the old hotel, locals and visitors alike would enjoy the spirit of old Hawaii visually. Too often we overlook what is at our feet-a great resource of history for generations to come. Kauai needs new parks, as Kauai grows. Please revitalize the belief of the people on Kauai in our political system and restore Hawaii's dignity, by supporting this Bill.

Aloha

Sherwood C. Conant II  
PO Box 490  
Kilauea, Hawaii 96754

## testimony

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**From:** Pam Lightfoot [good.designworks@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 7:07 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221

Dear Senators.

My family would LOVE to see a park where the decaying CoCo Palms has stood for years. It would be a wonderful legacy for the locals and visitors alike.

It would be a cultural legacy to leave to our children and grand children. It would be refreshing and reassuring to drive by a park instead of condo's to be sure.

This would be a first step in holding to the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan.

Thank you for considering Bill 3221.

Respectfully,

Pamela Lightfoot Burrell

## testimony

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**From:** Maren Orion [marenorion@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:56 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221

Aloha Kakou....I am writing to support the passage of Senator Hooser's Bill 3221. The aquisition by the State of the land occupied by the Coco Plams Hotel so that it could be made into a cultural heritage park would be a wonderful benefit for the people of Hawai'i and the world. This site is full of historical and spiritual significance and should be used for the benefit of all, rather than becoming the site for another expensive tourist resort. Kaua'i needs another expensive tourist resort like it needs another major hurricane.

If we aquire this property it would have many benefits for our island:  
First of all, some of the land could be used to widen Kuhio Highway at that point where it is always so congested. With a good planner's help, we could ease the burden of congestion at the intersection of Kuhio Highway with Kuamo'o Road. If a resort acquires the property...the terrible traffic congestion will only worsen in times to come.

The removal of the ruin of the old hotel will allow residents and visitors a chance to see the beauty of our island instead of the dangerous and unsightly structure that stands there now.

If we could build a cultural heritage center on the land...it would give residents and visitors a chance to connect with the culture of the Kanaka Maoli. It would help us all to gain more understanding for the people who were here 1000 years ago and whose rich cultural practices deserve to return to a more prominent place on these islands.

This is a very significant point in time and a chance for the Senate to do what is truly pono. Instead of continuing to allow the rape and degradation of Kaua'i, please take a step in the direction of restoring and healing of the 'aina in that place. Let it be a spot where all people can enjoy the beauty of the land and Hawai'ian culture, not just the timeshare owners.

I urge you to pass this bill so that we can begin to take back our islands from developers who only want to use the land to make a lot of money. Let us work on creating a treasure for ourselves and future generations. Mahalo for reading this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely, Maren Orion Oppenheimer, Kilauea, Hawai'i

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**testimony**

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**From:** Estrada, Ricardo [ricardo.estrada@luxurycollection.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 9:02 AM

**To:** testimony

I am in favor of Senate bill 3221 concerning the Coco Palms. Mahalo Ricardo Estrada  
R

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## testimony

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**From:** Robin Pearl [rpearl1@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2008 11:42 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** coco palms

i came to the coco palms for the first time in 1964 with my entire family to celebrate christmas. it was a magical place - open and beattiful and so "Hawaiian". all the locals who worked there welcomed us as if we were visiting them in their home. we even went christmas carolling with our waitress' church. as we wandered through the coconut palms we imagined the island in the beginning. each year the guslanders invited all the keikis staying there at christmas to plant a norfolk pine and the one we planted is still there.

we returned there for several more holidays and later on my honeymoon i brought by husband there to watch the lighting of the torches at sunset.

i have now lived on kauai for eleven years and of course this place is in my heart and soul. and now i know many locals and take part in the community all year round. we on kauai need a park like this. we need a gathering place for the locals to meet for celebrations and family picnics. so many of our public areas have become limited in access or compromised by large developments. please consider opening this land for local use. it will be well loved and cared for and grace guslander will be smiling.

aloha  
robin pearl selfe  
kalaheo, kauai  
808 332-5529

## testimony

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**From:** jonathan jay [jonathan@dakauai.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 12:59 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Hooser; Rep. Hermina Morita; Joann Yukimura; Tim Bynum; Steven.Kyono@hawaii.gov; Mel Rapozo; Thomas A. Noyes  
**Subject:** ATTN: SB 3221 - Please Support this Excellent Proposal

Aloha Elected Representatives -

Mahalo for bringing your attention to this bill SB 3221. It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony in favor of it's passage. I am quite proud of (my) Senator Gary Hooser for introducing it. It is an excellent proposition, and deserves your most rigorous support.

This project is a social gain in so many ways, I am sure you will receive wide support for many reasons, but perhaps I can add some that may not be as much discussed:

1) As you know, loss of shoreline access is a 'very big deal', and as you also know, the very strong trend in recent decades is for commercial interests to move in and wrest control over beaches and beach access away from the public.

SB 3221 is an opportunity to move 180 in the other direction by reclaiming a property from a now defunct commercial interest, and returning it to the public sector.

2) And this area is not just 'a' property. Yes, Elvis was 'the king', but on a far deeper and more culturally profound level than Hollywood or Nashville could ever hope to reach, this area is one of the most sacred localities in all of Hawai'i Nei, the center of Spiritual and Political Power in Pre-Contact Kaua'i/Taua'i, and the residence of the last Queen of Kaua'i/Taua'i Deborah Kapule.

3) This location north of the Mouth of the Wailua'i and the exsiting Wailua State Park, and County Lydgate Park (which will all be linked by pedestrian/bicycle access) stretching along Wailua Beach would make a most appropriate location for a State Park and Hawai'ian Cultural Center. Together, these parcels could aggregate into a tremendous cultural resource center, somewhat akin to Pu'uhoonua O Honaunau, formerly known as the City of Refuge Park, over on Big Island.

4) State DOT may also wish to get involved due to their desire to add one more lane of traffic along this section of the Kuhio Highway.

So too may County of Kaua'i due to their desire to insert a Coastal Pedestrian/Bike path along the same corridor.

The problem is one of alignment. What may inspire HIDOT & COK's investment in this project is the possibility that their buy-in may allow them to each to enhance the transportation infrastructure through that corridor by gaining an easement from the former Coco Palms property. This could allow their projects to each procede WITHOUT further encroaching makai onto Wailua Beach, which is already stressed.

Thank you much for your attention to this worthy effort. I heartily encourage you to not only support, but also involve yourself in the possible friendly amendments, approval, and passage of SB 3221.

It is honestly, the most exciting Senate Bill I have heard in all of my (short) residence of five years.

Mahalo Nui Loa for all you can do!

regards,

jonathan jay



Kapahi, Moku Puna Kaua`i.

jonathan jay  
5424 Kuapapa Street  
Kapa`a, HI 96746

## testimony

---

**From:** Frank Anderson [maka-lolo@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:43 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Bill 3221

TO: Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Re: Senate Bill 3221

I support Bill 3221 to preserve the Coco Palms Resort as a State Park. This would be a wonderful place for Cultural events, family gatherings and educational purposes. Please pass this Bill.

Thank You  
Frank Anderson  
Princeville, HI

---

Helping your favorite cause is as easy as instant messaging. You IM, we give. [Learn more.](#)

**testimony**

---

**From:** J. Kimo Reyes [j.kimoreyes@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:24 AM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** BILL 3221

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Aloha Committee Members;

In regards to Bill 3221 submitted by Senator Gary Hooser to preserve the Coco Palms Resort as a State Park; please pass this Bill. The resort and surrounding areas are considered scared by Hawaiians and could be used as a Cultural Center for future generations.

Mahalo

Joanne Reyes

Anahola, HI 96766

**testimony**

---

**From:** Mika & Stuart [kuponono.aina@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:11 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Bill 3221

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
RE: BILL 3221  
COCO PALMS RESORT ON KAUA'I

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE ABOVE BILL TO PRESERVE THE COCO PALMS RESORT. THIS WOULD BE A BENEFIT TO THE ISLAND KAUA'I AND ALL PEOPLE OF HAWAII, RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

MAHALO  
MIKA ASHLEY-HOLLINGER  
KILAUEA, HI

## testimony

---

**From:** Jill Landis [bchbums2@gte.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:17 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palm Park Project

February 8, 2008

Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I can think of no better way to show respect to the Hawaiians who held the land around the Wailua River so very sacred than to dedicate all of our efforts to tearing down what has been an eyesore for over ten years and turning it into a place of beauty, reverence, sharing and aloha where Kauaiians as well as visitors could gather to enjoy the palms, the lagoon, and share music and joy.

Our island already has its share of condos, time shares, luxury homes and hotels. What we need now is open space that can be shared by all along with, perhaps, a small visitor center with not only the history and stories of the sacred sites along the Wailua River, but the tale of the Coco Palms itself, how it was so cherished by visitors, locals and celebrities alike and include the story of how the park facility came to be. Mahalo for considering this project.

Sincerely,  
Jill Marie and Steve Landis  
Hanalei, Kauai

## testimony

---

**From:** Leilani Spencer [leiday2000@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 7:54 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco palms

Please make this beautiful and sacred spot into a park for all of kauai to enjoy and treasure.

Leilani

---

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\_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ

**testimony**

---

**From:** Stuart Hollinger [stuart.hollinger@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:10 AM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** Coco Palms on island of Kaua'i

I'm in favor of Senate Bill 3221 concerning the Coco Palms !  
Hollinger

Mahalo

Stuart

**testimony**

---

**From:** Jeffrey S. Seymour [jeffseymour1@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 8:06 AM

**To:** testimony

Re: Senate Bill 3221

To Committee members -

My name is Jeffrey S. Seymour. I'm a resident of the State of Oregon, and an attorney, practicing land use law.

I'm returning to Kauai this September for the 11th time, and have spent a lot of time in the Wailua area. I've stayed in the Wailua Bayview condos 3 times, in the 1997 - 99 timeframe.

The last thing that area needs is another resort. The last couple years I've been there, travelling through the Kapa'a to Lihu'e stretch has been a nightmare, even during the non-rush hours.

What is needed are more parks, and a continued effort to educate the public on the wonderful Kaua'i culture. With the Coco Palms' location next to Wailua Bay, it is an ideal location for the use proposed by Sen. Hooser.

I strongly support this bill.

Jeffrey S. Seymour  
Attorney at Law  
4040 Douglas Way  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035





## **COUNCIL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ADVANCEMENT**

1050 Queen Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Tel: 808.596.8155/800.709.2642 • Fax: 808.596.8156/800.710.2642

[www.hawaiiancouncil.org](http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org)

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

**Testimony of Robin Puanani Danner, President & CEO**  
**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement**

Hearing on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., Room 229

**Support for SB 3221, Relating to the Coco Palms Resort in Waialua on Kauai**

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Honorable Senator Hee and Honorable Senator Kokubun, Members of the Committee:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) is a community development nonprofit with a mission of enhancing the well being of Hawaii through the cultural, economic and community development of Native Hawaiians. We achieve our mission through capacity building of community based organizations, training and technical assistance, leadership development and convening our community around topical and important policy issues.

We strongly support this legislation and the adequate appropriation of matching funds for the Board of Land and Natural Resources, in partnership with other public and private nonprofit entities, to acquire the Coco Palms Resort and convert it into a public historical park and cultural education center to preserve and perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture.

At CNHA, our vision is to have an engaged Hawaiian community strengthened by self-determination, cultural knowledge and identity that advances the well-being of the Hawaiian Islands and its people. SB 3221 advances our vision by providing a central point for our Native Hawaiian community and the larger Kauai community to malama the lands of Coco Palms.

We applaud the leadership of Senator Gary Hooser for introducing this measure and we provide our full support of its passage and implementation for the benefit of preserving and perpetuating the Native Hawaiian culture.

**HPACH**  
919 4th Street  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

February 9, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
And Committee Members On Water And Land  
The Senate, The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008, State of Hawaii

Subject: SB 3221 Relating To The Coco Palms Resort, SUPPORT

ALOHA Kakou,

My name is Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney. As Sovereign of the Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii, I "SUPPORT" the passage of SB 3221.

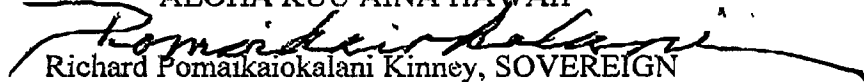
The Coco Palms Resort land base presents the best site for a Native Hawaiian Culture Center. Presently there is no place in Hawaii where people from all over the World may come to to pay their respects to the native indigenous people and the culture of Hawaii. Especially our cousins for the south seas.

Soon in the near future Hawaii may host a Makahiki Celebration. The Coco Palms Resort and the people of Kauai would be the perfect Host of Hawaii's First Annual Makahiki Celebration.

Once more HPACH "Supports" the passage of SB 3221.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present testimony on this important Bill.

ALOHA KUU AINA HAWAII



Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney, SOVEREIGN

Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii

Email: [HIAHAWAII@aol.com](mailto:HIAHAWAII@aol.com)

2/28/08

Re: Senate Bill 3221:

Coco Palms Conversion

State Senate Committee on Water & Land:

Please, please, please

consider, study, and then pass

the bill 3221 that would have

State of Hawaii acquire Coco Palms

Resort and convert to a park - historical

& cultural education center.

This would be the very best

use of this prime land, located directly

across the highway from Waialua Bay. It

would solve so many problems re: development.

It would be a source of PRIDE and BEAUTY

FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

Thank you,

Chalene L. Kaitiaki  
602875 0000000000

**testimony**

---

**From:** Judith Shabert [jshabert@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 9:35 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco palms

I can think of no better use for the coco palms land than to convert it to an historical park. I is one of the most important Hawaiian cultural sites in the state.

Additionally it will prevent further development in the Wailua area which is already overcrowded and congested.

Thank you.

Judy Shabert  
4341 Kapuna Rd  
Kilauea, HI 96754

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**testimony**

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**From:** Bali Hai Weddings [balihai.weddings@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 9:12 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB-3221 - COCO PALMS

02/08/08

To whom it may concern,

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)

Have past clients coming back to renew their vows and many have expressed their concern that Kauai is becoming overdeveloped.

Please see below the email received 02/07/08 from James Brown, Director State Relations Travel Industry Association, Washington D.C.

**Marcia,**

**Hi - how are you? You served as coordinator for my wife, Lana, and I in August 03.**

**I am glad to see the article on the Coco Palms proposal. My wife and I would like to see that a park developed there as well. When we were there Christmas 06, Kapa a was horrible with traffic. We don't want the island to lose its intimacy.**

**Anyway, good luck on supporting that proposal. I will forward a similar email to the state capitol. Hope all is well.**

**Mahalo!**

James P. Brown. Jr., CAE  
Director, State Relations  
Travel Industry Association  
1100 New York Ave. NW Suite 450  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202-408-2184 - direct  
202-408-1255 - fax  
[jbrown@tia.org](mailto:jbrown@tia.org)

2/8/2008

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

Outdoor concerts would afford a wonderful opportunity for our many talented musicians . Live plays, art shows , Keiki talent shows ,  
Let bring back our community !

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

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

Marcia Sacco / Bali Hai Weddings  
808-640-5761

**testimony**

---

**From:** guy1197@aol.com

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 9:16 AM

**To:** testimony

I am in favor of converting the Coco Palms into a park. There has been plenty of time for private interests to get something done, and now it is an eyesore in Kauai's second biggest town. Let the public, visitors and residents enjoy it.

Bob and Peggy Turchyn Kilauea Kauai

---

More new features than ever. Check out the new [AOL Mail!](#)

## testimony

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**From:** Suzanne Lahr [sasha423@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:30 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

Kauai needs to preserve this historic area as a park. It could have many uses-Hawaiian history center, walking paths, swimming pool which is badly needed in the Kapaa area, paddling in the lagoons, bike paths, tennis courts, another small zoo with traditional Hawaiian animals, etc  
Please consider this to be of utmost importance. Mahalo.

Suzanne Lahr  
[sasha423@mac.com](mailto:sasha423@mac.com)  
[sasha423@yahoo.com](mailto:sasha423@yahoo.com)  
[slahr@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:slahr@hawaii.rr.com)  
[renegaderph@gmail.com](mailto:renegaderph@gmail.com)



1.800.586.6059

**Leslie Scales**

---

**To:** testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** lcscales@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Coco Palms Heritage

**Importance:** High

This Senate Bill 3221 comes as a fresh spring water well gushing forth to bring life to a land worthy of life once again. What a smart and bold proposal by a dedicated Senator who knows the heart of the people of Kauai. To create a Cultural Park in conjunction with the state and public & private non-profit entities makes clear sense and forges a beginning where there is currently no sight of any ending to bring the sacred site of the famous Coco Palms to be at place of peace and honored as a heritage and cultural symbol for the Hawaiian race. The Wailua area where the Coco Palms remains dilapidated and beyond reverence, is a huge part of Hawaii's history, recorded in ancient times as the landing place of the first Polynesian voyagers from Marquesas, birthplace of Kauai's Ali'i or royalty, and home of the last reigning Queen of Kauai, Deborah Kapule.

The island people of Kauai will best make use of this valuable land, as it will become an important tool to teach and educate the present and future generations should this Senate Bill be considered. As a Kauai native, I humbly plead you to seriously undertake this task at hand and create the Hope for the people of Kauai. Ask us, those of us that have lived on Kauai all of our days and you will see through to our hearts that another Developer's dream would be the ruin of our precious Coco Palms. Rise up with us and lead our way. Senator Hooser is a wise man because he takes the time to listen to his people here on the island of Kauai. We support Senator Hooser and the Senate Bill 3221. Help us keep our island spirit alive, we need to build the heritage of this island thru Coco Palms.

Ua Mau Ke'ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono. IMUAI!!

Leslie Castillo Scales

Lawai, HI 96765

## testimony

---

**From:** Cassie Crescenzi [cassiecrescenzi@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:38 AM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** Purchase of Coco Palms site for Public Park

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong support of acquiring the Coco Palms site/land by the State of Hawaii to create a public historical park dedicated to the preservation and practice of the Hawaiian culture.

I feel this is a fantastic idea and strongly urge you to seriously consider and cast your vote in support of this proposal, which I understand is Bill 3221.

Securing this historical site for the use of the residents and visitors of Kauai would be a dream come true for many well deserving people. It would also be a priceless gift to the public and to future generations.

The site is an extremely important cultural site, holding so much of its own history beginning from ancient times and lasting well into the 20th century. The site also sits within the very special culturally significant area surrounding the sacred Wailua River. We should consider this a true treasure and preserve the area as such.

There is no question in my mind that the acquisition of Coco Palms is the pono thing to do. I commend Senator Gary Hooser for having the vision and integrity to introduce this bill for the benefit of all of us.

Mahalo nui loa,

Catherine Crescenzi  
6526 Kaahele St.  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
808-822-7607

## testimony

---

**From:** Margery H. Freeman [freeman@aloha.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:39 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 3221

Senate Co. on Water and Land  
SB 3221 - in favor  
Hearing: Sat. Feb. 9, 2008 at 11am

Dear Committee Members,

SB 3221 is before you today and I would urge you to vote in favor. Ever since Iniki the Coco Palms Hotel has sat empty and deteriorating. Several attempts have been made to buy the hotel property and completely redo it into a combination time share and hotel. Each effort has ended in failure for the very good reason that basically such a tourist facility is not viable in that location any longer.

There have been efforts to turn the area into a public historic park and cultural center. All efforts have failed for lack of money. This effort could work if SB 3221 passes. Coco Palms is located right in the corridor of Hawaiian cultural lands. These lands are sacred to the Hawaiian people and include a number of religious sites, birthing stones, the river and other significant Hawaiian places. Coco Palms property would be a significant addition to this corridor.

Please vote in favor of SB 3221.

Sincerely,  
Margery Freeman  
6448 Kaahele St.  
Kapaa, HI 96746 (Kauai)

## testimony

---

**From:** Miles Lahr [mlahr@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:47 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221

I support Senate Bill 3221 to purchase and renovate Coco Palms Hotel to become a historical park and cultural education center.

Sincerely,

Miles R Lahr  
PO Box 1113  
Kapaa, HI 96746-1113  
(C) 808-635-2883  
(F) 808-823-0113

## testimony

---

**From:** Annaleah Atkinson [annaleah@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:44 AM  
**To:** testimony; Sen. Gary Hooser; tbynum@kauai.gov; Rep. Hermina Morita; mayor@kauai.gov; Rep. James Tokioka; jyukimura@kauai.gov  
**Subject:** Pro: a Park and Cultural Center for Coco Palms

Dear Senator Hooser, Rep. Morita, Rep. Tokioka, Mayor Baptiste, Council Members Bynum and Yukimura, and receiver of testimony for the Capitol,

I am writing in support of the state subsidizing purchase and construction of a park and cultural center on the property of the former Coco Palms Hotel.

I am a board member of Na Kahu o Hikinaakala. These lands are sacred to the Hawaiian people. I believe we can honor the culture and sacred grounds, and create an area to perpetuate the Hawaiian Culture. I believe that it could support itself in time. Kaua'i Ali'i lived there, and their lives, customs, crafts, recreation, foods, etc. could be demonstrated/taught there.

Many tourists come to Kaua'i hungry for the culture, spirituality and beauty of the island. Hauola (a Place of Refuge), Hikinaakala, Malae, and Ka Lae o Ka Manu/Holo holo Ku are 4 major heiau areas within walking distance and Poliahu is just 2 miles away from Coco Palms, conveniently across from Opaekaa falls and Kamokila Hawaiian Village.

An admission could be charged. Research could be done on Oahu's Polynesian Cultural Center, and the Big Island's Pu'u Honua o Honaunau. A lot of the work would be done by the participants themselves as they learned about their areas of interest. Classes would be for half or a full day.

The Kaua'i Ali'i park could have the following possibilities:

1. Historical tour
2. Authentic Chanting, Mele and Hula classes
3. Canoe maintenance, paddling classes and possibly decorating their own canoe paddle they would purchase
4. Working at the Fish Ponds, and catching a fish
5. Making of Tapa cloth
6. Using Hawaiian designs to decorate clothing articles they would purchase
7. Making a Luau from digging the pit, pounding poi, preparing a coconut dessert, etc.
8. Working in a Hawaiian Healing plant garden/studying La'au Lapa 'Au
9. Tending a taro patch
10. Making lei, including collecting the Ti leaves and flowers
11. Learning some basic Hawaiian Language
12. Playing Ukelele which could be borrowed or bought
13. Making crafts from coconut leaves or shells
14. The true meaning of tatoos, and getting temporary ones designed with semi-permanent inks.
15. Studying the stars as a form of navigation.
16. Hawaiian games
17. Hawaiian Story and storytelling
18. Learning Ho'o pono pono

Classes could be offered every other day if space was a requirement, and there's more, but this is enough to get the idea across.

That evening there could be a dinner gathering, and people could demonstrate their day's accomplishments, which could be augmented by some good kahiko hula, chanting, and mele.

People could purchase a one, two, or three day ticket, and would have to sign up for their class at least 24 hours in advance.

What the Kaua'i Ali'i Park would have that would make it unique from other cultural centers are the fish ponds, a taro patch, Coconut grove, proximity to so many sacred sites, and a sincere dedication to the perpetuation of the Hawaiian Culture, and an

understanding of where Aloha Spirit really comes from.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annaleah Atkinson, M. Ed.  
5742 Koali St.  
Kapa'a, HI 96746

**testimony**

---

**From:** CM [chris@poipubeach.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:40 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Kauai coco palms property SB3221

Aloha dignitaries. Our family is in favor of preserving the old coco palms property in Wailua, Kauai and develop an Hawaiian historical park. With the rich history of that corridor as being the most significant in the islands, it is a natural. Centrally located for our visitors as well.

this idea has come and gone over the years and we strongly encourage our law makers to help us make this happen. We for one, would be glad to donate, give up our federal tax rebate, whatever we can do to make it happen.

Please, Please Please, help us purchase this land and make it a Hawaiian historical park.

Mahalo Nui

the Chris Moore family



## KAUAI PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

February 8, 2008

(sent via email to [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov))

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for SB 3221 Coco Palms Resort, Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
Appropriation

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 3221, which will provide funding for a community-based planning process guided by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to acquire the property known as Coco Palms Resort in Wailua, and to provide funding to support the State's partnership in that acquisition.

The history of this area has spanned more than a millennium; the site holds deep significance for Native Hawaiians. It was the birthplace of ali'i. It also has a more recent history in the past century as the site of gracious hospitality. It is perhaps most famous as the site of the Elvis Presley film *Blue Hawaii*. For a wide variety of reason, it holds a special place in the hearts of all Kauaians.

This bill will enable the creation of a partnership to acquire the property and to design a usage that meets the broad needs of the community by providing a site that might be used as an educational and cultural center and a park. This would wisely restrict its current zoning as a resort, which is unsuited for the area and for that property.

I urge the committee's support for SB 3221.

Sincerely yours,

Diane Zachary  
President and CEO

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KAUAI

2959 Umi Street, Suite 201, Lihu'e, HI 96766 Phone 808.632.2005 Fax 808.632.2018  
Email [kpaa@kauainetwork.org](mailto:kpaa@kauainetwork.org) [www.kauainetwork.org](http://www.kauainetwork.org)



## testimony

---

**From:** Poipu Plantation B&B and Vacation Rentals [plantation@poipubeach.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:44 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 3221 Coco Palms

Aloha all! Please help us preserve the Coco Palms resort. The idea of it become a historical Hawaiian landmark is very encouraging since it's brought us many blessing. Mahalo nui, Jei-Nhy

Poipu Plantation Resort - B&B and Vacation Rentals on  
Kauai

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Our Web Site: <http://www.poipubeach.com/>

Our Secure Reservation Web Site: <https://www.secure7.com/swww/poipu/>

Our Hawaii car discounts from \$28.50 day, \$143 Week high season \$35 day, \$162 week:

<https://www.thrifty.com/reservations/index.aspx?iata=00142102&pc=2102>

**2/9/2008 SB3221**

*TESTIMONY: SB3221 - SUPPORT FOR ACQUISITION OF COCO PALMS RESORT*

Chairman Senator Clayton Hee and Members of The Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I strongly support Senate Bill SB3221, for the Acquisition of Coco Palms Resort, to provide the opportunity for the residents of Kauai and the State of Hawaii, to build and maintain a public supported historical park and **Cultural Center** that would serve to preserve and benefit the native Hawaiian culture. Further, visitors to Kauai, interested in Hawaiian culture and history, would have the opportunity to visit and experience cultural aspects from volunteer docents, those of Hawaiian ancestry and present/future educators. This **Cultural Center**, as a non-profit entity, could be self-sustaining through entrance fees and donations.

Much akin to the Polynesian Cultural Center on Oahu, this facility could become, in part, a pre-school for Kamehameha Schools, but less oriented to commercialism and more towards cultural education. The focus could be more on the Hawaiian history and less on the broad spectrum of Polynesia.

The orientation of the **Cultural Center** should emphasize more on a cultural educational purposes than the well-known, well-worn public parks. For a public park, there is Lydgate Park located right across Kuhio Highway. The **Cultural Center** may well be named after Kauai's last reigning queen of Kauai; or "*The Queen Kapule Cultural Center,*" as an example.

As a member of a "historic" Kauai family, dating back to 1880, and a Commissioner on the Kauai Historic Preservation Commission, I hope that my contributed short testimony will have meaning to the Chairman and the Members of the Committee. Several years back, I did have the benefit as a Commissioner to review the planned documents for the now-failed Coco Palms proposed development, and did make some recommendations that clearly reduced some of the blatant design violations of cultural aspects of the proposed development.

Mahalo,  
Alan Faye  
February 8, 2008

**testimony**

---

**From:** mike mcbride [mcnectar5@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:52 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms Park proposal, Kauai, HI

My family and I express support for the proposal to make the grounds of the former Coco Palms Hotel a site for Hawaiian culture and public access.

Having lived in the area for many years, it is evident that the surrounding heiau is but a survivor of the spiritual expression wrought by the ancient Hawaiian peoples.

Please, please help the Island of Kauai recoup some of its former spiritual grounds by approving this request by Senator Hooser.

Mahalo nui loa, Mike McBride

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**testimony**

---

**From:** Karen M. [kmats4@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 11:34 AM

**To:** testimony

I'm in favor of Senate Bill 3221 concerning The Coco Palms.

Karen Matsumoto  
Kalaheo, HI.

---

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## testimony

---

**From:** noni@aloha.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 11:57 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** park at coco palms

I think it's a wonderful idea to create a park at Coco Palms. It would greatly enrich our beautiful island. Thank you, Patricia Hanwright PO Box 700 Anahola, Hi. 96703

**testimony**

---

**From:** gillen@gillen.net [johngillen10509@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 11:42 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Gary L. Hooser  
**Subject:** Bill 3221 Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in Room 229 at the state Capitol.

I will be attending the Hearing on Senate Bill 3221 to be held by the Senate Committee on Water and Land. What follows is a synopsis of the remarks I wish to make, I will be available for any clarification or discussion required.

Coco Palms, Kauai, once the cultural attraction that gave a home to Coco Palms Resort, lured movie stars, heads of state, and created Kauai's tourism industry, has faded into a fenced state of neglect. The visual impact of the Iniki ravaged hotel is blight on our landscape and an affront to its cultural and historic significance.

Senate Bill 3221 can go a long way to creating a means to overcome the progressive decline of the area, and potentially provide relief for another community problem: housing.

In the past 17 years endless presentations have been made to various agencies to "improve" the Coco Palms Resort. All those plans involved intrusive threats to cultural and historic concerns and involved increased density of use. It is my view that any proposed "increase" in use, or destruction of historic structures will result in opposition, delay, and progressive worsening of the visual blight.

The property should be parkland for use by the community. The hotel structures should be visually restored and the interiors converted to housing. The buildings unsuitable for housing should be used as cultural and historic facilities.

Housing, fronting a very busy main highway is problematic for families with children, but would be ideal for senior citizens. Those same seniors would be ideal in employee and volunteer capacities for the organizations that would occupy the many remaining buildings on what was the hotel property. The housing vacated by the seniors would be immediately available to relieve the housing shortage.

In my view a not-for-profit entity is an ideal way to accomplish all of the above.

I have toured and examined the entire property from my perspective as having renovated many residential and commercial buildings, and provided rental housing for hundreds of people, I think Coco Palms can be "saved." What was 599 hotel rooms with extended ancillary out-buildings used as stores, restaurants, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, and other uses, can be repaired/renovated. The end result would be about 400 units comparable to those in the Weinberg Foundation Senior Housing in the old Lihue Theater building, and a substantial inventory of offices and buildings useful for community, cultural, and historic purposes. The grounds can be opened for park use.

In short, Coco Palms is an opportunity whose time is now. The work would be done within the existing buildings as a repair. It is reasonable to think the job, once started, would take less than 2 years; the visual blight, made a priority could be fixed within a shorter time frame.

The big questions that always come up are cost, who puts up the money and how does it get repaid?

\$10million is a good start.

I think it is reasonable to assume that the rents from the completed project would pay the cost, all the cost.

The best source of the money is a revenue bond. Such a bond would carry a low interest rate, and a long payback period.

Just how much are we talking about? Overall, about \$80million including the land. The rents? Between \$450 and \$1,000/mo/per senior unit depending on location. These rents will be sufficient to operate the facility and pay off the bonds.

Coco Palms is visitor destination photographed daily. As it is, it is a photograph best left untaken. Something needs to be done.

I urge the passage of Senate Bill 3221 whether my ideas are pursued or not.

Thank you for the courtesy of your time.

Reply to:

John Gillen

gillen@gillen.net Tel808-634-3450 Fax810-821-5934POB 223300-147 Princeville HI 96722

## testimony

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**From:** Roberta McBride [equimanic@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 10:46 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms Park proposal, Kauai, HI

I am writing to express support on behalf of myself and my entire ohana in regards to making the site of the former Coco Palms Hotel and grounds an area for Native Hawaiian cultural expression in the form of a park. I have long thought this.

Having lived in the area for years, I can tell you that the area is indeed a very special place, possessing great mana. In much earlier days, it was rightfully utilized by the Hawaiian people as an area in which to conduct ancient rites.

In addition, I would also like to point out that the two portions of Wailua River State Park are, shamefully, perched on either side of a ONE-ACRE RESIDENTIAL LOT. The selling of this land to private party was an absolute slap in the face to the residents of Kauai, who must scabble for parking in order to TRY to use the makai section of the Wailua River State Park system. If one is lucky enough to find a place to park, one finds that there is very limited space to utilize along the river, while the privately-owned acre bisecting the park boasts THREE sprawling residences; vacation rentals, I surmise.

This travesty could be mitigated by providing more parking for those residents and visitors wishing to enjoy the Wailua River State Park by providing some parking situated at the proposed Coco Palms Park.

Thank you. Please approve our request for conversion of this area to better use than a commercial resort. Roberta McBride

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## testimony

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**From:** Robbwall@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 11:21 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** gary@hooser.org  
**Subject:** PLEASE make the CocoPalms Park

Aloha.

I live in the adjacent neighborhood to CocoPalms and use the beach frequently. As a local Resident and Realtor, I have been surprised any Buyer would want to live or vacation on a soon to be four lane highway. The sea is also within 20 yards of the road and washes across the highway during storms. It seems irresponsible to place that many condominiums so close to an eroding coastline. The sacred nature of the property has never been acknowledged due to the hotel, and a statue of Debra Kapule along with her story would be appropriate. The wedding chapel will be a huge source of income for the State and local performers can return to entertain and make a lively hood as before. The original purpose of the CocoPlams was an area for teaching Hawaiians and it was key to the Hawaiian Culture in the most sacred Wailua Valley. There are also a considerable number of Hawaiian grave sites as well that should not be disturbed - Is there no where sacred for our Hawaiian ancestors to rest in peace?

The Cocopalms Hotel was wonderful in it's day, but the location no longer suits the revenue Developers require - obviously! We also have a glut of vacation rentals for sale on the island and we are doing a dis-service to our Investors and residents by flooding the market with inventory we do not need and traffic we can not accomodate.

Sincerely,

**Robb Wall (RS)**  
**Cell: 1-808-635-4606**  
**Website: [robbwall.com](http://robbwall.com)**  
**Email: [robbwall@aol.com](mailto:robbwall@aol.com)**

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Who's never won? [Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music.](#)

## testimony

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**From:** Javed [javed@poipubeach.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 11:23 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

Aloha To whom It may concern, Please purchase the "COCO PALM" Land and turn into a Hawaiian Culture center. Your Kokua on this very much appreciated. Mahalo Javed Maksood

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**testimony**

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**From:** Beryl Blaich [blaich@aloha.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 12:44 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Gary Hooser  
**Subject:** SB 3221 Related to the Coco Resort, Board of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriation

**Regarding SB 3221 Related to the Coco Resort, Board of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriation**

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Committee on Water and Land, FX 808 586 7334  
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

February 8, 2008

Aloha Chairman Hee and Vice-Chairman Kokuban:

I write in enthusiastic, strong support for Senate Bill 3221.

Professionally and in volunteer capacities I spend considerable time thinking about and advocating for preservation of significant places: places where natural beauty and resources, culture, history, agriculture and recreation are layered and interwoven; places which are profoundly meaningful to our identity, places which epitomize Kauai and Hawaii. Kauai has several highly important and vulnerable places that merit our most energetic collective efforts to put in the public domain and to manage for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations. Here are three reasons why action to acquire the Coco Palms property is especially needed now and is sound and right.

The Coco Palms area is threatened. Under changing private ownership the extensive buildings and grounds - so many historic - have been utterly, abjectly neglected. The deep history of the place - its relation to the ali'i and to sacred Wailua - is not being revered or even acknowledged by the upkeep and management which is only motivated by commerce.

The primary importance of the Coco Palms is its native Hawaiian history that is associated with hospitality. No use could be more appropriate than that of public historical park and cultural education center with primary focus on perpetuation of native Hawaiian culture.

The State of Hawaii already owns much of the land in and around the Coco Palms, including the adjacent Wailua River State Park. According to the HTA study, Wailua River State Park attracts the second highest number of visitors (888,100 per year) of all State parks

Senate Bill 3221 is not a dole-out. It recognizes that 1) this is an expensive property and it will take a consortium of funders to achieve preservation; 2) it will take a community-based entity to manage a cultural center. Having the Board of Land and Natural Resources as a primary coordinator of this effort is appropriate and signals a State commitment to preservation.

Please support this bill and this worthy project.  
With much aloha,

Beryl Blaich  
PO Box 1434, Kilauea, HI 96754

**testimony**

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**From:** Maria Perlman [maria@SleepingGiant.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 4:24 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms

**LATE TESTIMONY**

There would be nothing nicer than to have the old Coco Palm site be a park. Great Idea, way to go. Kauai needs more parks!!!!

Sincerely,

Maria

**Maria Perlman**

Sleeping Giant Sotheby's International Realty

4480 Ahukini Road, Lihue, HI 96766

Phone: (808)245-8831 ext 14

Mobile (808)651-0784

Home (808)742-7217

Toll Free: (800)247-8831

Fax: (808)246-9478

<http://www.sleepinggiant.com/>

<http://www.sothebysrealty.com/>



**testimony**

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**From:** DJ Harris [djharris3@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 1:19 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** approval for Coco Palms  
**Importance:** High

**LATE TESTIMONY**

I approve of the recreational park and educational center.

**DJ Harris**

DJ Harris

An Independent Claims Administrator

Representing Agent Tom C. Harris

Aflac

4721 11th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55407

612-823-5809

[djharris3@comcast.net](mailto:djharris3@comcast.net)

Aflac. Without it, no insurance is complete.

**testimony**

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**From:** Tom Harris [tomharris3@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 1:23 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Coco Palms Resort

**LATE TESTIMONY**

I APPROVE of state effort to acquire the Coco Palms resort and convert it to a public park and cultural educational center.

Tom Harris  
An Independent Agent Representing Aflac  
Aflac  
[tomharris3@comcast.net](mailto:tomharris3@comcast.net)  
Aflac. Without it, no insurance is complete.

Date: Fri, 8 Feb 2008 15:27:33 -0800 (PST)  
From: "Gary Blaich" <gbk0a4@yahoo.com>  
Subject: SB 3221  
To: sanhee@capitol.hawaii.gov, garyhoosar@hotmail.com,  
saniokubun@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Cc: sanhoosar@capitol.hawaii.gov

# LATE TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol Rm 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of SB3221, which, if passed would start the process of acquiring Coco Palms Resort for a Hawaiian Cultural Center/Community Center.

I am not alone in thinking such acquisition would be a good thing for Kaua'i. Increasingly there are letters to the editor in our local paper suggesting acquisition for public use, and the up date of the Kapaa development plan has called for using Coco Palms as a public gathering place.

The Coco Palms site holds tremendous cultural significance being the former home of Princess Deborah Kapule and the entry way to the City of Refuge, Malae Heiau, and the beautiful heiau complex that stretches mauka from the Coco Palms area.

The opportunities for cultural learning, starting with respectful interpretation of the site and including hula, mele, oli, surfing, fishing, aquaculture, kalo farming, lomi lomi, la'au lapa'au, weaving, etc are numerous and inspiring. Plus some of the existing zoning would allow for small scale commercial activity, e.g., a restaurant that could provide training and some revenue stream for maintenance.

The time has passed for development and further deterioration of the site. Please pass this bill and start the exciting restorative process.

Aloha nui loa, Gary L. Blaich, M.D.

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**testimony**

**From:** Roland Barker [lokelaniranch@hawaiiintel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 12:54 PM  
**To:** jonathan@dakauai.com  
**Cc:** testimony; Sen. Gary Hooser; Rep. Hermina Morita; Joann Yukimura; Tim Bynum; Steven.Kyono@hawaii.gov; Mel Rapozo; Thomas A. Noyes  
**Subject:** I urge you to support SB 3221

**LATE TESTIMONY**

I am very happy to see a proposal such as SB 3221 advanced in the Legislature. I think at this stage in the development of the State of Hawaii, that we can begin to permanently secure our beaches against further developmental encroachment without adversely affecting one of the healthiest real estate and tourism development markets in the world.

We are, in fact, protecting the value of the development we already have by preserving public access and public space. These amenities invariably raise the value of the surrounding real estate by preserving view planes and halting quality-of-life degradation due to constant construction, burgeoning traffic, and "no trespassing" signs.

The proposal to make Coco Palms Resort over to public use is an excellent way to make a win-win out of what is now an eyesore, a location that has proven it's unsuitability to commercial development by the series of failed attempts over the years.

Please support his proposal in any way you can.

Thank you,  
Roland Barker  
Kapaa, Kauai



**testimony**

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**From:** Beau Blair [beausephine@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 1:06 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 3221

**LATE TESTIMONY**

I am in full SUPPORT of Senate Bill #3221, introduced by Senator Gary Hooser. This is the most sane and reasonable use for the Coco Palms Resort on Kauai, taking it out of the pool of "development resorts", which we do not need anymore of, and putting it into the well needed use of a public historical park and cultural education center. It lies in the very middle of the North to South corridor, on the East side of Kauai in Kapaa town, and so would be immensely appreciated by all who drive thru Kapaa town. Please use our State funds to match the effort to acquire and restore these most valuable cultural lands, and make them forever useful to those who live and visit Kauai. We have so few opportunities like this to take advantage of on Kauai, so please pass this bill. Many Mahalos for your time.

Sincerely,

Beau B. Blair  
P.O. Box #421  
Hanalei, HI  
96714  
808-826-7038

beausephine@hawaii.rr.com  
beausephine.b@mac.com

## testimony

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**From:** Wendy Raebeck [wendywailua@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 1:13 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** re: SB 3221

## LATE TESTIMONY

My testimony,

IN REFERENCE TO SB 3221

SCHEDULED FOR HEARING FEB. 9, 2008  
BY THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Aloha to Elected Leaders,

I am heartened to hear of Senator Hooser's proposal about the Coco Palms land, and I'm totally in favor of any and every attempt to preserve all land around and near Wailua Beach and Wailua River.

The Wailua River was once known as "The River of the Great Sacred Spirit." Heiaus from that time still remain, all the way up the river and on both sides of the bay. This breath-taking area is one of the most tranquil and beautiful places in Hawai'i. The thought of not protecting and preserving it, now that we have the chance, would be crazy.

When I heard the new Coco Palms project was cancelled, I envisioned a nature sanctuary. A place of palm trees and birdsong, sweet air and butterflies -- where people could recharge spiritually. I could see unimposing stone or pebble trails meandering through, benches and grassy areas -- not like a recreational park, but more a place where one goes to merge with the beauty of nature. Attractive signage long the paths could identify flora and fauna. And informational plaques, not unlike the ones in the Lydgate Heiau, could honor the history and culture of old Hawai'i, and the spirit of the land and waters.

I would not advise any buildings or even cultural centers -- certainly nothing that would end up needing parking lots and offering more services, conveniences, events and activities for people. That would ruin the concept of preserving it. It should be not about us, but about the natural world we draw breath from.

An adjunct to all this is that the Kaua'i bike path is slated to run MAKAI side of the highway at Wailua Beach. Basically, on the sand, and replacing the trees. To run the path ON the beach is outrageous. To pave over even one foot of so narrow a strip of beach is environmental suicide, with the ever-changing river-mouth, tide variances, storm influences, hurricane probability, and global warming. It's truly unthinkable, and a visual disaster, as well.

"Path" spokespeople maintain there's nowhere else for it to go. With the bike path would come amenities no one's even thinking of yet.

People will stop at the beach. Then we'll need: restrooms, changing rooms, bike racks, showers, pavilions for shade, trash cans, lighting and all the pavement and construction these amenities entail. More people will jump in the water, and we'll need a lifeguard station.

Plus more people will want to park their cars there, meaning more pavement and traffic problems.

Wailua Beach must remain in tact, exactly as it is. The road itself is already way too close.

I had initially inquired about running the bike path in front of or behind Coco Palms. I was told there were reasons it couldn't be done, all having to do with the Coco Palms Hotel project. And, supposedly, the only other option was for the bike path to STOP completely by the Shell station, then start up again on the south side of the river, breaking the path into two pieces, and foiling any continuous rides between Kapa'a and Lihu'e.

Another relevant issue is that from where the Wailua alternate route comes out, near the Coconut Marketplace, all the way across the river, Kuhio Highway is supposedly going to be widened and a new bridge built. I believe they will be adding another lane.

When the highway is widened, we should get the bike path into that mix. The bike path could go mauka of the new auto lane, and then continue over the bridge with the highway. Since the Coco Palms land is now for sale, maybe things can be re-worked. If there's going to be another car lane, it will definitely affect the Coco Palms property at least a little. I know the bike path still needs to cross the highway somewhere to connect to the Lydgate portion, but with creative thinking and environmental commitment, it can be done.

Also, the Open Space Commission has over a million dollars and is trying to figure out an effective use for that money vis-a-vis protecting open space and natural beauty. (Plus they get more money each year.) I can't think of a more worthwhile project for them than helping preserve the Coco Palms land.

In summation: A nature reserve with footpaths for pedestrians, idyllic benches to sit on, and the bike path leisurely rolling through. There should be no commercialism or eyesores whatsoever, except maybe a couple of restrooms (painted green). This could be the most beautiful walking/sitting/cycling place in the world, where everyone can reconnect with the Great Sacred Spirit.

We will all flourish and prosper if, like the river, we allow Kaua'i's spirit to flow.

Thank you to Senator Hooser, and to all of you for considering our thoughts and suggestions,

Wendy Raebeck

Michael L Smith  
389 Laaukea Place  
Kapaa, Hi., 96746  
mlsmithco@hotmail.com  
(808) 634-3335

LATE TESTIMONY  
LATE TESTIMONY

February 8, 2008

Testimony For:

SB 3221

*Coco Palms Resort; Board of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriation*

Hearing Board,

Using the cost share approach, it is a very small price to pay for the people of Hawaii, through our tax dollars, to establish a Hawaiian park on the land of Coco Palms. A land steeped in Hawaiian culture and lore, it can once again live and thrive as a place for all. As a park it will do this.

However, aside from being a park, there are so many practical issues that make Coco Palms Park a huge advantage for the state and county governments. Infrastructure alone is reason enough.

**TRAFFIC SUPPORT:** Coco Palms is located in the middle of busiest traffic corridor on the island of Kauai. With the right planning the front of Coco Palms can be better utilized for resolving traffic issues.

**WASTE WATER SUPPORT:** The main sewage waste water lines run in front of Coco Palms and a pumping station is located on the property to direct sewage to the nearby sewage treatment plant.

**SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA:** Coco Palms is located in a special flood hazard area with a base flood elevation of approximately eighteen (18) feet. By limiting construction in this area it will reduce the threat of destruction to neighboring properties during a storm event.

**IMMENENT DOMAIN:** With the overwhelming growth that has already taken place in the immediate area it has rendered the current infrastructure: such as roads, bridges, electrical distribution lines, water mains, etc, incapable of functioning normally. When this property is owned by a government entity, the infrastructure costs will be greatly reduced since there will be no need to acquire the property through forced legal proceedings of imminent domain.

It is the right time for our legislatures to see the value of this land and the urgency for which it is needed.

Thank you,

  
Michael L. Smith



LATE TESTIMONY

Legislative Testimony  
**SB 3221, RELATING TO THE COCO PALMS RESORT**  
**Water and Land Committee, Ways and Means Committee**

February 9, 2008

11:00 a.m.

Room: 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS** SB 3221, which appropriates matching funds for the board of land and natural resources in partnership with other public and private non-profit entities to acquire the Coco Palms Resort and convert it into a public historical park and cultural education center to preserve and benefit Native Hawaiian culture.

OHA supports the Legislature in this effort to preserving and protecting Hawai'i's fleeting natural environment and valuable cultural resources. SB 3221 makes excellent reference to Wailua as being of "historical importance" including "some of the oldest heiau, which is a place of refuge and birthing of chiefs". Furthermore, SB 3221 also notes "The acquired lands are to be used as a public resource and a public or nonprofit entity shall be selected to manage and operate a public historical park and cultural education center that would serve to preserve and benefit the Native Hawaiian culture." In support of the preservation and protection of mentioned lands as it relates to "historical importance", OHA proposes to amend SB 3221 by adding reference to Article XII, sections 4 through section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

OHA, the sole public agency responsible to assess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on Native Hawaiians, supports this bill because it should have a positive effect on various State agencies' abilities to properly assess the environmental, cultural and aesthetic impacts of all proposed land developments and acquisitions.

OHA compliments the Legislature on this bill's intent in the promotion and protection of Hawai'i's host, the Native Hawaiian, and the preservation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights. OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 3221, taking the above concerns and amendments into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Legislative Testimony  
**SB 2248, RELATING TO LEGACY LANDS-KAIWI COAST**  
**Water and Land Committee, Ways and Means Committee**

February 9, 2008

11:00 a.m.

Room: 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS** SB 2248, which makes an appropriation for the board of land and natural resources to purchase the Kaiwi Coast using the land conservation fund.

OHA advocates the acquisition of mentioned Kaiwi Coast to preserve and protect lands under provisions set forth under the Legacy Land Conservation Program.

As a matter of clarity and appropriate referencing, OHA proposes to amend Senate Bill 2248 by correcting the spelling of Kaiwi. As noted in the Bill, Ka `Iwi, is incorrect and as a result does not reference the intended area and or any other affiliations that this name is associated with.

Kaiwi is literally translated as "The Bone". Kaiwi additionally refers to the channel between Moloka`i and O`ahu (aka Moloka`i Channel), district areas in Kailua Kona, Hawai`i, a descendant line of Native Hawaiian Ali`i, a most cherished possession in the legacy of Native Hawaiian spirituality, and or a natural ridge boundary to name a few. The multiplicity of meaning support the cultural significance of this area and the importance of preserving its natural environment for future generations; this is a necessary component in defining Hawai`i's legacy lands.

OHA compliments the Legislature on this bill's intent in the preservation and protection of legacy lands. OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB 2248, taking the above concerns and amendments into account. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
SB 3221 WITH COMMENTS**

**Senate Committee on Water and Land**

**Saturday, February 9, 2008, 11:00 a.m., Room 229**

**testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov**

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Vice-Chair Kokubon:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports the intent of SB 3221 Relating to the Coco Palms Resorts, but has the following comments and concerns. I apologize if a TPL representative is not present to testify on the bill. I have a funeral I must attend, and other staff person will be on a neighbor island.

TPL conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Nationwide, TPL has five program initiatives: (1) providing parks for people, (2) protecting working lands (farms, ranches, and forests), (3) conserving natural lands (wilderness, wildlife habitat), (4) safeguarding heritage lands (cultural and historical resources), and (5) preserving land to ensure clean drinking water and the natural beauty of our coasts and waterways. In Hawai'i, TPL has worked with public and private partners to conserve over 36,000 acres of land in the State, with a focus on coastal lands and lands important to Hawaiian communities.

While TPL supports the State's ability to finance funding for a purchase through a bond, TPL must clarify that it opposes using the Legacy Lands Fund to leverage or finance such a bond. TPL was actively involved in the passage of the Legacy Lands Act, which sets a small percentage of the conveyance tax for conservation acquisition projects (currently, roughly \$4.7 million per year). The Legacy Lands Commission consists of experts in agriculture, land conservation, Hawaiian culture, biology and other disciplines. These representatives are also geographically dispersed among all four counties. The Commission reviews grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for funding.

In the past two years since the Legacy Lands Act's passage, the number of worthy projects has far exceeded available funds. Every project that has been funded leveraged substantial matching federal, county, and/or private funds, making the limited dollars in the Legacy Lands Fund go farther. The funded projects met several criteria. All projects had: (1) willing landowners/sellers who had agreed to sell the property at a set price, (2) engaged communities calling for the preservation of the lands, (3) specific plans to manage the land, (4) substantial matching funding, (5) significant natural and/or cultural resource value, and (6) current threats to the property that called for protection or acquisition. The experts on the Legacy Lands Commission weighed these factors, and as difficult as the task was, prioritized the projects for available funding. The amount of funding in the past two years, has always been less than the number of good projects.

DATE TESTIMONY

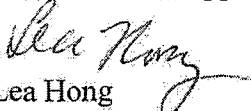




Using the Legacy Lands Fund to finance a bond for the next 20-30 years for the purchase of a single project would not be consistent with the goals of the Act, and render the Legacy Lands Commission useless. The Legacy Lands Fund serves an incredibly useful purpose, and the Fund should not be diverted to finance a bond for any single project.

Accordingly, TPL supports SB 3221 with the above comments/concerns.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

  
Lea Hong  
Hawaiian Islands Program Director

**testimony**

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**From:** linda ruthenbeck [lruthenbeck@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 2:16 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SB 3221 Historical Park and Cultural Center

**ATTN: SB 3221**

**Please accept this/my e-mail in support of SB 3221 to provide matching funds to acquire and convert the old Coco Palms Resort to a State Park and Cultural Center. Mahalo, and special mahalo to Gary Hooser for a brilliant submission in an attempt to save what's left on our island!**

**Sincerely,**

**Leslie Pool  
(808) 742-7140**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**testimony**

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**From:** Sandraljensen@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 2:03 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** Carl Miura  
**Subject:** SB3221 / Coco Palms Hearing

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**RE: Coco Palms Hearing  
SB3221**

**Testimony in Favor of purchasing Coco Palms Property,  
Wailua, Kauai, Hawaii.**

**Aloha to those Concerned:**

**Please be advised that I am in Great Favor of voting approval for Funds to purchase the land currently known as Coco Palms on Kauai.**

**I have been a resident of Kauai previously for over 10 years and return for family vacations to Kauai.**

**Coco Palms is on Sacred Hawaiian Land and should be preserved as such for the people of Hawaii and Visitors to cherish the Historical value of the Ancient Hawaiian Culture**

**Future Generations will not see a Hawaii such as we see today and it would be an asset now and in the future to have such a Beautiful Land Preserved with all of its rich History.**

**Putting a Hotel or Condominiums is not a solution to Preservation of Hawaiiiana. The Heart and Soul of Hawaii is flowing in this Land and in the Coconut Palms. Please have a Heart today and SAVE this Heart of ~~ ALOHA~~~**

**Mahalo,  
Sandra Jensen**

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**testimony**

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**From:** Mose Orion [moseorion@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2008 2:39 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** In favor of Coco Palms Bill

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Please pass Senate Bill 3221 introduced by Gary Hooser. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor the Hawaiian people by dedicating this special land to them. It would be a great gift to the community to have this land to use as a park and cultural heritage center. In addition, it would also make it easier to widen the highway between there and the ocean. Thank you for your attention. Mose Orion Oppenheimer

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