

**HAWAII KAI  
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD**

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Web Pages:  
• [www.honolulu.gov/nco/nb1](http://www.honolulu.gov/nco/nb1)  
• [HKNB.org](http://HKNB.org)

*Hawaii Kai Neighborhood  
Board meets the last Tuesday  
of every month (except Dec.),  
7 p.m., Hahaione Elementary  
School cafeteria. The public is  
welcome to attend.*

**Testimony Opposed to  
Senate Bill 636 HD1 – Recreational Renaissance Program**

House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

April 6, 2009, 4:00 p.m., Capitol Room 308

**RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE VIOLATES KA IWI MASTER PLAN;  
KA IWI FEES COST MORE TO COLLECT THAN WOULD BE COLLECTED**

The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board stands firmly behind its February 24 decision to oppose the imposition of user fees at Ka Iwi Scenic Shoreline, including at Makapuu Lighthouse Trail, and to support the removal of Ka Iwi from the list of state parks affected by the Recreational Renaissance Bill. This, of course, now includes Senate Bill 636 HD 1, as well as House Bill 980 HD 2.

In the Board's previous testimony to the Finance Committee on March 3, the following points were made and remain valid:

- User fees are not in the Renaissance bill, but they are implicit in its financial plan, and DLNR has announced its intention of imposing user fees at Ka Iwi.
- DLNR's estimate of fee collections at the Makapuu Lighthouse Trail at Ka Iwi was derived from the wrong data and was grossly incorrect.

Instead of making money at Ka Iwi, the state would lose money there. According to correct Hawaii Tourism Authority data, only 29,400 non-resident tourists used the trail in 2007. Based on \$5 per car (with multiple occupants) and \$1 per walk-in, the state might average about \$1.50 per non-resident hiker. This would bring in less than \$45,000 a year – and the cost of an attendant to collect the fees is \$85,000, plus the cost of a ticket booth and other probable amenities.

On February 18, I was told by DLNR in writing: "You are correct that the 29,000 figure will be significantly less and might not meet the cost of a collection booth attendant." Yet, DLNR steadfastly refuses to remove Ka Iwi from its proposed list of fee-charging sites (see attached pages from HTA "State Parks Survey").

- Fees would commercialize Ka Iwi and cause the state to market the area to more and more tourists in order to generate revenue. This would drive out local use, as is evident at Diamond Head and Hanauma Bay where fees are already imposed.



## HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD

House Committee on Finance: Testimony Opposed to SB 636 HD1

April 6, 2009

Page 2 of 2

- The board is also calling for the complete removal of Ka Iwi from the Recreational Renaissance plan. The Ka Iwi State Park Master Plan (1996) made specific recommendations intended to keep the Ka Iwi area in a natural, undeveloped condition. There is no mention of user fees in the document. The Recreational Renaissance is incompatible with this approved master plan.
- Further, Section 10 of SB 636 HD1 details a list of construction projects (including "comfort stations; pavilions; cabins; camping areas; picnic areas; visitor/educational/ranger station centers; concession facilities; caretaker residences," etc.) that would be authorized at any or all of a detailed listing of state parks – including Ka Iwi. While the current administration insists that it has no major building plans at Ka Iwi, future administrations might use SB 636 HD1's authorization to force unwanted and un-needed development into the Ka Iwi park.
- Further, the list of authorized projects on state land at Ka Iwi, including "cabins," would have an extremely negative effect on the on-going community battle to prevent development on privately owned preservation land in the Ka Iwi Mauka area. This could have serious negative implications on preservation land statewide.
- Charging fees at Pali Lookout, the other Oahu site proposed for fees, would drastically alter the now enjoyable experience for visitors and residents alike.
- The imposition of user fees on non-resident tourists is also "nickel and dollaring" tourists at a time when visitor counts are dropping. This contradicts efforts by the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau to promote the value of a Hawaii vacation. HVCB recently produced a list of 150 free things to do in Hawaii, including a stop at Pali and hiking the Makapuu Lighthouse Trail.

**While there are many good proposals and much needed projects in the Recreational Renaissance plan, it should be amended to:**

- **Eliminate the imposition of non-resident tourist user fees; and,**
- **Remove Ka Iwi Scenic Shoreline park from the plan to ensure that the area remains open and pristine.**

Aloha,



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**Attached:** Excerpts from 2007 *Hawaii State Parks Survey* used by DLNR as source for visitor counts:

Pg. 01 Title Page

Pg. 10 **Total Visitor Count**, Makapuu circled.  
Incorrectly used by DLNR.

Pg. 19 **Non-Resident Count**, Makapuu circled.  
Correct count to lighthouse only: 29,400.



**LATE**

# 2007 Hawai'i State Parks Survey

Prepared for:

**HAWAII**  
TOURISM AUTHORITY

December 2007

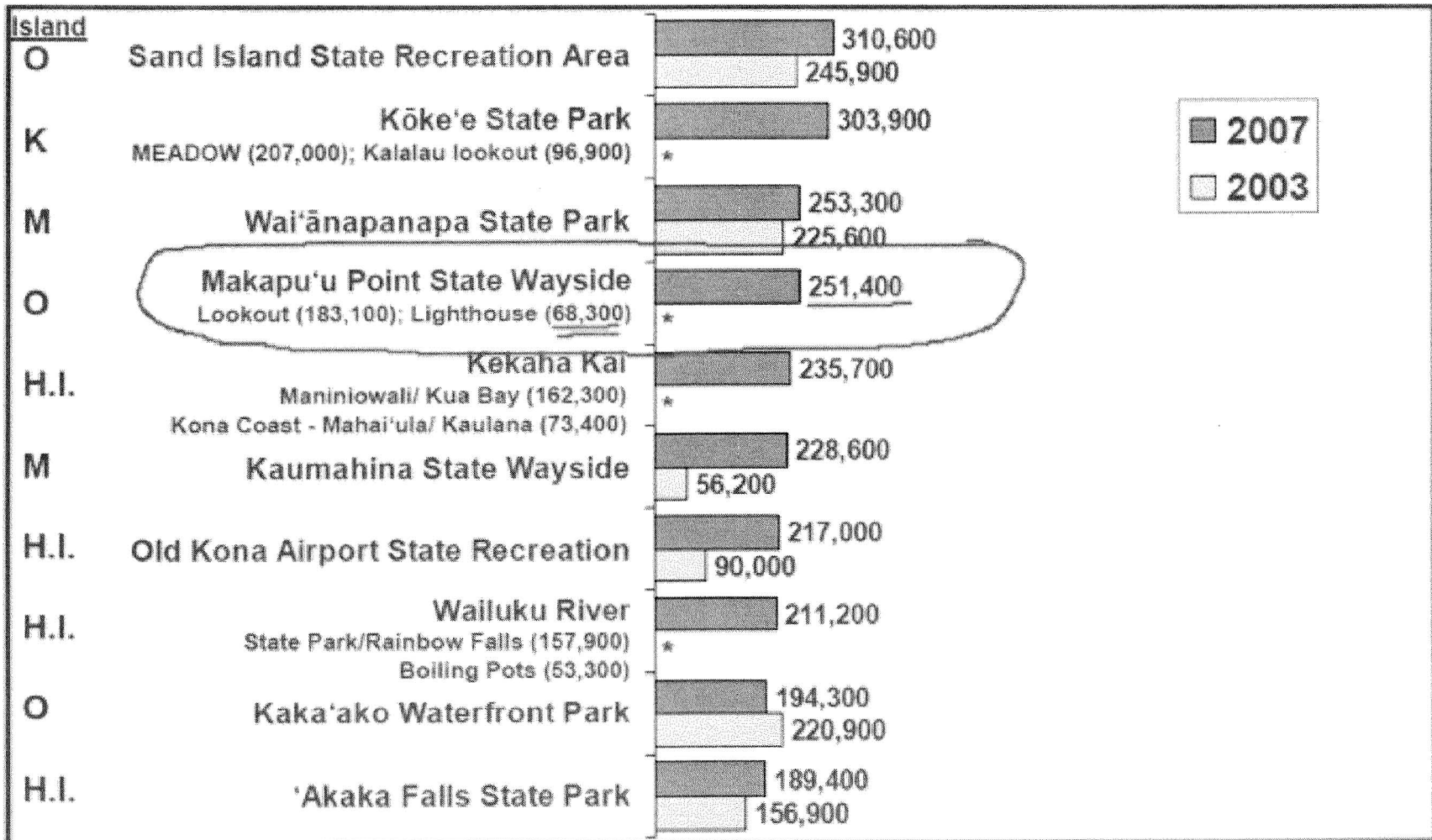


**OmniTrak Group Inc.**

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# Utilization by Park: Tracking (2 of 6)

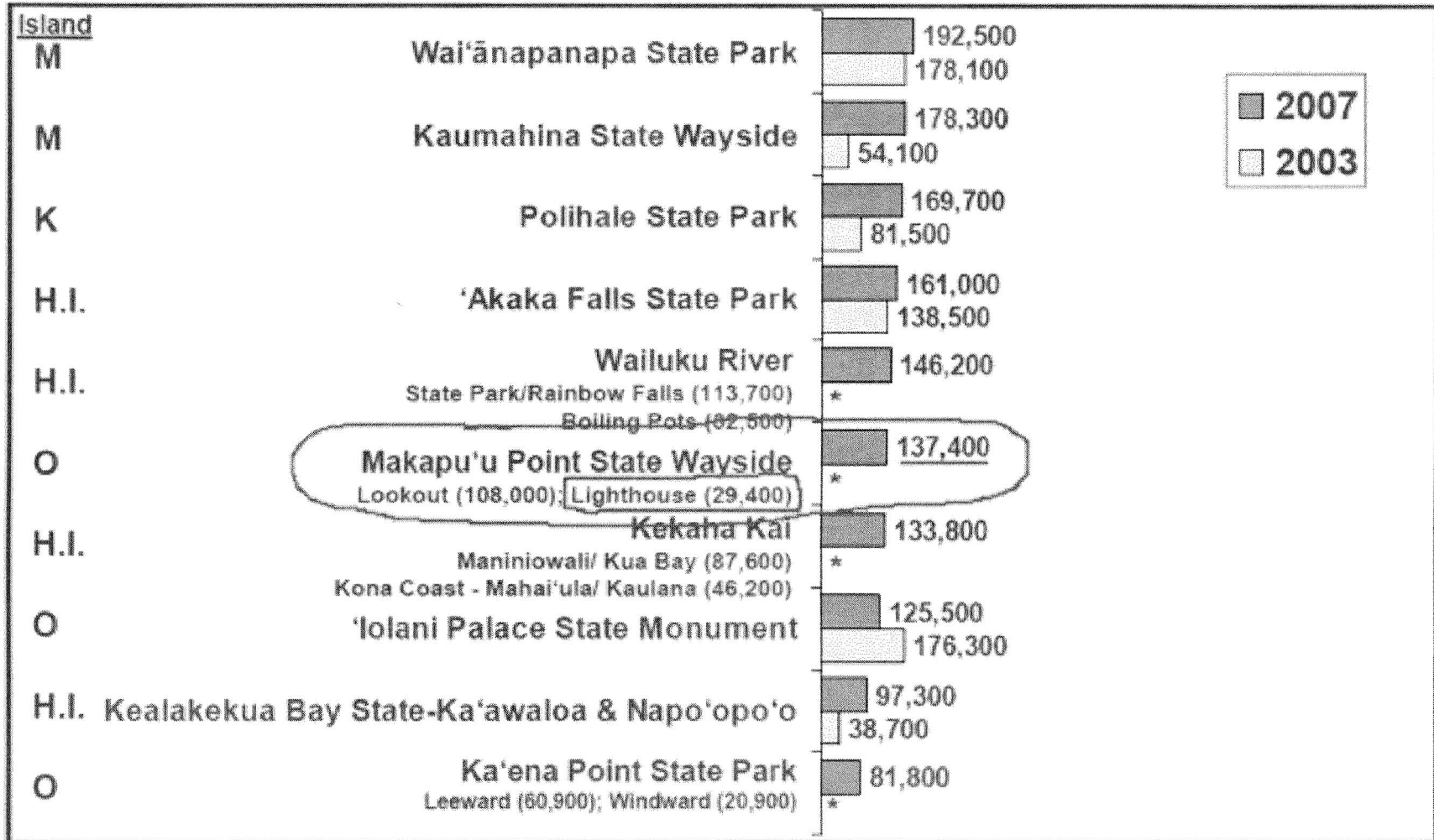
The top 10 parks in volume likewise rank similarly to 2003. Two exceptions are parks where 2007 counts were undertaken at more locations to increase accuracy: Hāpuna, moved from 29<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and Ka'ena Point from 28<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.



Note: O=O'ahu, H.I. Hawai'i Island, M=Maui, K=Kaua'i

\*Because of methodological enhancements, comparisons of volume in 2007 cannot be made with 2003 because it would not represent an "apple-to-apple" comparison.

# Park Utilization By Out-of-State Visitors: Tracking (2 of 6)



Note: O=O'ahu, H.I. Hawai'i Island, M=Maui, K=Kaua'i

\*Because of methodological enhancements, comparisons of volume in 2007 cannot be made with 2003 because it would not represent an "apple-to-apple" comparison.