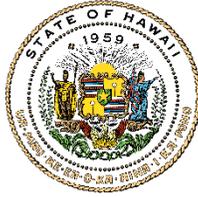


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND



Friday, March 14, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1348, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

House Bill 1348, House Draft 2 proposes to require the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease public lands for recreation-residence use by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to residents of the county in which the leased land is located. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

The historic recreation residence community within Koke'e-Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i has been a cherished resource for local families for over a century. The mountain community is modeled on similar communities established on US Forest Service lands in wilderness areas on the mainland, which continues today as a thriving recreational program.

There are approximately 100 recreation residence (cabin) leases in Koke'e-Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua'i, and they are unique in Hawai'i – allowing no permanent residence, but instead intended for occasional use not to exceed 180 days of use per year. They were envisioned as a means of allowing families to gather and commune with nature, escape the summer heat, and keep forest roads and amenities open and accessible.

Due to a combination of enabling legislation and past BLNR approvals establishing rent amounts, there presently exists an inequity in annual rents charged for these mountain cabins. The majority (75%) were leased via direct negotiation with existing leaseholders, at appraised values, under Act 223 (2007). Appraised rents for this largest set of cabins ranged from \$5,000 to \$9,500 annually. Sixteen unencumbered cabins were auctioned in 2009, resulting in higher annual rents, up to \$18,000 annually. The most recent auction of just 7 cabins, held in 2024, resulted in winning bids ranging from \$15,500 to \$41,000 yearly, for cabins in severely neglected condition. This amounts to rents ranging

from three to ten times their appraised values, and effectively priced them well out of the reach of affordability for most local families. This also resulted in a stark inequity in pricing for access to similar state-owned recreational amenities.

This proposed bill seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing for current lessees in good standing to be granted new leases, (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value), and (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available, by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Following a February 26, 2025, hearing on the companion bill to this proposed measure, SB 1517, the Senate Judiciary Committee amended the bill to change the maximum term of years that BLNR may impose under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) §171-44(a) for recreation-residence use from twenty years to five years.

Reducing the allowable lease term to five years would place a large burden on state resources with frequent site inspections, appraisals, and administration of the lotteries. Particular to the Koke'e cabins, shorter lease terms diminish the incentive for tenants to be stewards of park resources and install improvements. This would then require routine, costly maintenance of properties for a division currently understaffed.

Accordingly, we strongly support maintaining the original language in HRS §171-44(a), allowing for twenty-year terms. Moreover, should BLNR deem it appropriate for certain properties, it may set the lease term for a recreation-residence at five years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support on this measure.



CHIPPER WICHMAN, KLA PRESIDENT
HĀ'ENA, KAUA'I

March 14, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1348 HD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Hearing before the Senate COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

1:00 pm Monday, March 14, 2025

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with excellent changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

I am the President of the Kōke'e Leaseholder Association and for the past five years we have been working closely with State Parks leadership and staff to come up with a system that is fair and equitable for both existing leaseholders and well as for the residents who don't yet have a lease but would like to secure a lease on a cabin up at Kōke'e.

HB 1348 HB2 reflects a common vision that both our leaseholder community and State Parks supports. One of the most important changes being made to HRS 171-44 is that it directs State Parks to award new leases via a lottery instead of an auction. In 2024, State Parks, with the strong support and assistance of KLA, held an auction for 7

dilapidated cabins and the results of that auction proved once and for all that the majority of our local residents will never have a fair chance to get a lease if we continue to use an auction to lease out the cabins. Some of these run-down properties went for annual lease rents of \$30,000 to \$40,000!!!

This bill also proposes to restrict participation in the lottery to the residents of the county where the recreational residences exist. This is only fair and again this is consistent with the system that the Territorial government set up – that is that the Kōke'e camp lots (e.g. cabins) would be a resource for the people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Very importantly, this bill also provides strong incentive for existing and future leaseholders to make the capital investments needed to maintain the integrity of these historic properties. By allowing only lessees in “good standing” to “directly negotiate with the board to extend the lease for an additional term not to exceed twenty years”. This is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which is what the Hawaii system was modeled after when it was set up in 1918. An added benefit of this language is that by allowing only lessees in “good standing” to be able to renew their leases this bill will provide a VERY strong motivation to lessees to abide by all of the terms of their lease. This language helps retain the good stewards of this historic community and eliminate the bad apples that refuse to follow the rules that we all have agreed to.

While there is much more that I can say, I believe you can tell from what I have put in my testimony how important this legislation is for our community. I strongly encourage you to support HB 1517 and help make the awarding of leases a much more fair and equitable process.

Me ke aloha a ka mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chipper Wichman", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Chipper Wichman, President
Kōke'e Leaseholder Association

Frank O. Hay
kokee@okauai.com

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water & Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

BY EMAIL ONLY

MEETING IN HONOLULU on March 14, 2025, at 1.00 pm in Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1348, HD2,
Relating to Public Lands, As Amended

Aloha,

I have been a resident of Hawaii for more than sixty years, and a leaseholder at Kōke'e since 1975. I attended the first ever auction of our leases in 1985, where average lease rents increased by more than ten times. Fifty-one out of one hundred and eleven cabins changed hands in that bitter and disputed auction – the first in our now more than one hundred-year-old community.

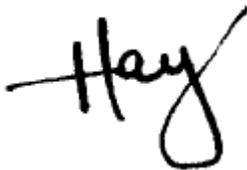
I was among the dozen leaseholders helping State Parks staff conduct the most recent auction, in April 2024. We were all greatly surprised that it “resulted in winning bids ranging from \$15,500 to \$ 41,000 yearly, for cabins in severely neglected condition” and “ranging from three to ten times their appraised values, and effectively priced them well out of the reach of affordability for most local families.”¹

This bill authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to negotiate with existing leaseholders in good standing and in compliance with their lease. It would also authorize a public lottery for leases of abandoned [or “orphan”] recreational-residence cabins. This is certainly the most fair and equitable way forward. It has historical precedent, as a lottery was conducted in 1951 for the “Water Tank Lots” within the Kōke'e State Park.

May I respectfully suggest that the effective date be at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year, on July 1, 2025.

I ask your strong support in passing the Bill, with the amendments proposed by State Parks. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter to the Kauai community.

Very truly yours,



¹ Testimony of Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson, DLNR, before the House Committee on Water & Land, 2/4/2025
268 Hua Place, Wailua Mauka, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746-9608
(808) 635-3226

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:35:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

Mahalo, Jimmy Johnson

Kapaa HI

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:43:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Wichman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 without amendments, which will make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

These recreation residences represent the unique heritage of this Kokee forest community on Kauai. Many cabins are 100 years old and those that have been given consistent care and maintenance by families with a strong emotional connections to these properties and this place have greatly benefited. Please pass HD 1348 HD2 without amendments to ensure the best management approach possible for this historic mountain community.

Aloha,

Wendy Wichman

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:06:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Slaski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Andrea L Slaski LMT

Wailua,HI

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2025 TIME: 1:00 PM

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. I kindly ask the committee to pass HB1348 HD2 without amendments. Thank you for your time and support of HB1348.

Andrea L Slaski LMT

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Slaski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

David P Slaski RPh. LMT

Wailua, Kauai

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2025

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2. This bill will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. I kindly ask you to pass HB1348 HD2 without amendments. Thank you for your time and support of HB1348 HD2.

David P Slaski RPh. LMT

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:25:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kuulei santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:31:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Palo Lockett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha

My name is Palo Lockett and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1348 on behalf of myself and the Cavasso family. Joel Cavasso is a "lessee in good standing" and I am married to his daughter whom I shared many walks through the forest of Kōke'e before getting up the courage to ask her to marry me. We are longtime residents of Kauai and have taken care of the Cavasso family cabin for several decades.

The recreational residence program in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau. It should remain that way. Local families care for the roads, care for the surrounding forest, and maintain the cabins on our own. This tradition should be nurtured as well as the lessee's efforts recognized by the State.

We urge the Committe on Water and Land to pass HB1348 HD2 without amendments.

Mahalo for your consideration."

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:56:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Williamson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2, without further amendments.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill, as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. This bill will create a fair and equitable process for the Kaua`i community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke`e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

On behalf of our extended 'ohana, I thank you for taking steps to better manage, with greater fairness, the historic Koke`e cabins and upland community.

Our great-grandparents built the cabin during the Great Depression and we are so grateful to have kept it in our family for almost 100 years, enjoying stay-cations, celebrating holidays, and hosting friends at this refuge through a World War, a pandemic, and decades of dramatic change in between. As generations have moved around — off island or to the continent for education, work, or marrying into families elsewhere — this wahi pana has been our only constant and common "family home" at which we gather, repeat all the old shared stories, and make new memories. Over the years, family members have given back to the area by serving on the Koke`e Museum / Hui o Laka board, helping maintain the gravel road, pruning plum orchards, and organizing the annual Pedal to the Meadow bicycle race.

- We agree that DLNR should have the ability to make vacant cabins available via lottery, not auction;
- We agree that only residents of Kaua'i County would be able to participate;
- We agree that maintenance by lessees must be incentivized, so that properties do not fall into disrepair when the cost of a new roof, total rewiring/plumbing, septic systems, or other crucial projects is prohibitive;
- We agree with 'direct negotiation' for families that abide by lease terms (eg. never renting out, upholding design standards) and are good-faith stewards of cabins and mauka lands; and,
- We agree with amendments made by State Parks during recent hearings.

Mahalo for your consideration of these improvements.

Mary Williamson
for the Danford/Williamson family

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:14:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee On Water and Land, Senator Lorraine R Inouye, Chair, Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

I respectfully ask the Committee on Water and Land to PASS HB1348 HD2 without amendments

Also I am in strong support of HB1348 HD2 which will finally establish a more fair and equitable process for our Community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i

My family has spent over a decade clearing trails and eradicating invasive species. Our commitment will endure as we feel custodians of the land.

Mahalo

Michelle Rose

Halemanu Road

Lot 51

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:35:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Moana Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Mahalo for your time in hearing our testimony.

Patti and Kevin Huff

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 7:33:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Wichman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Anthony and Lorraine Wichman

P O Box 929 , Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756

(808) 651-7866

March 14, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 HD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

TO: Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Water and Land Committee

I'm writing to support HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai

The people of Kauai care for the area and will continue to care for this area this bill is talking about and because we live here, we are the eyes and ears for DLNR. I know lots of Kauaians who donate and volunteer with organizations that also care for Koke'e like Koke'e Resource Conservation Program, Kokua Koke'e, Forest Bird Recovery, Nature Conservatory, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and more. It's our home we will take care.

Thank you so much for allowing us to give a written testimony and I hope you'll support it.

Mahalo,

Anthony Isaac Wichman and Lorraine Kaleimamo Haruko Wichman

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:20:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joanne Murphy

237 Kipu Place

Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

(808) 346 -1201

March 14, 2025

Subject: Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I'm writing to support HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

I support HB1348 HD2, proposing the State incorporate fair market values for lotteries and negotiation with its recreational leases. Recent methods of assigning leases have often not worked for the betterment of the people of Kauai, resulting in problematic lease assignments, such as pricing out many locals who would make good use of the properties.

Mahalo for your time and service to our state,

Joanne Murphy

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:11:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of HB 1348 HD2

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1348 HD2, a bill that will establish a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The current process is flawed and has created a situation where only a select few individuals have been able to obtain leases for these cabins. This has resulted in a lack of diversity and has made it difficult for many people in our community to enjoy these beautiful parks.

HB 1348 HD2 would create a new process that would be open to all members of our community. This would ensure that everyone has a fair chance to obtain a lease for one of these cabins.

I urge you to support HB 1348 HD2 so that we can create a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for these recreational residence cabins.

Thank you,
David Phillips

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:20:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Viola Atou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for HB 1348 that creates a fair process to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:49:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny H Keomaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jenny Keomaka

P O Box 1762

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

(808) 630-3169

March 14, 2025

Subject: Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I'm writing to support HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

The beauty of the forested mountains is a wonderful place to find serenity, peace, and happiness. I grew up on Kauai and I have been lucky enough to experience with friends and family many times of enjoyment. Please protect our small community by keeping the history and beauty of Koke'e in the hands of Kauai residents. Leasing to people who are not members of our community and who would not honor the culture and history of these cabins, most of which were built back in the 1930's.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jenny Keomaka

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 12:25:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell McCluskey II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Russell McCluskey II, and I was born and raised on the beautiful island of Kaua‘i. I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2, a bill that I believe will make a real difference for our community by creating a more fair and equitable process for acquiring leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks here on Kaua‘i.

This bill has already passed through the House, and it was recently amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. The amendments to the bill have helped clarify key aspects of the process, specifically when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use a lottery system versus when they should use direct negotiation. This added clarity is crucial, as it ensures that future leaders in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will not face any confusion about the process this bill is proposing.

As someone who has lived on Kaua‘i my entire life, I am deeply committed to ensuring that the process for acquiring these leases is transparent and fair for all of us who call this island home. HB 1348 HD2 is a step in the right direction, and I wholeheartedly support its passage.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 12:44:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kibble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday March 14, 2025

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My husband and I currently lease a cabin and fully support this bill.

We appreciate your help and ongoing consideration of this bill.

Mahalo Nui

Nick Beck and Elizabeth Kibble

Wednesday 12th March, 2025

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:34:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann A Lentz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mary Ann Alexander Lentz

March 14, 2025

Resident of O‘ahu, Kona District, Moku of Honolulu

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1348 HD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

For meeting March 14, 2025

Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND,

Aloha Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am writing in **strong support of HB1348 HD2** which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable **process for our community to acquire and extend leases** for the recreational residence cabins in Koke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua‘i.

Born on Kaua‘i, raised on sugar plantations, then in the cities of Hilo and Honolulu, Koke‘e is where I learned to care for the ‘āina, to appreciate our native forests, and to identify and care for the indigenous species. Tutu taught us to leave the park and our tiny cabin better than we found it. Father taught us the trails, the ridges and valleys, and the stars as well as the water systems while Mother taught us how to grow beautiful flowers, and weave lei po‘o, and make jam. As our grandchildren run in the forest of Pu‘ukapele, building “menehune houses” from twigs, a fifth generation is learning to love, respect, and appreciate Koke‘e. Our cabin, “Punanaiki,” originally a plantation camp house, is truly a recreational residence, a place where we come, away from city life, reconnect with the land, and fully appreciate our island home.

Please allow us to negotiate to renew our lease for more than 5 years based on the value of the land upon which this humble cabin sits. HB1348 HD2 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest our own money to care for and improve cabin and property which are now fully owned by the State. We do more than comply with the lease having completely rebuilt after each hurricane and now spending \$15,000 every three years to control the 60-foot trees surrounding the property. Currently, we are faced with a real dilemma. The lease requires

us to have insurance; the insurance company requires that we have a new roof (\$15,000); the trees are due for trimming (\$15,000); and the lease is about to expire. With no assurance that we can negotiate a new lease, do we make this investment?

The ability to renew our lease when it expires very shortly would give us the incentive to make these improvements and remain in “good standing.” Additionally, such renewal is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which is what the Hawai‘i system was modeled after when it was set up in 1918 and my grandparents helped to establish the community at Koke‘e.

I fully support all of HB1348 HD2 and urge its passing. Mahalo for your attention.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:16:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucy Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1348 HD2. This bill will improve equity and fairness in the process of acquiring recreational cabin leases in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. The amendments made by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs strengthen the bill by clarifying appropriate use of a lottery versus direct negotiation by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

My family has been committed to Kōke'e since the 1940's when my grandparents first acquired our Pu'u Ka Pele lease. Since then, four generations have enjoyed learning about and preserving the park's delicate ecosystem. I believe this bill will help protect this cultural and ecological treasure by insuring the process of lease acquisition is well defined.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:29:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 12, 2025

Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen

9917 Waimea Rd

Waimea, HI 96796

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 HD2 Relating to Public Lands

To: Committee On Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

My name is Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen,

Raised in Wailua, Kaua'i, now residing in Waimea. This bill is very important as I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2. I ask the Committee on Water and Land to pass HB1348 HD2 without amendments. This bill is critical and will finally make it a fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee & Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land & Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

We are 3rd Generation Kaua'i Residents blessed with a Koke'e cabin since 2003.

We strongly supports the Lessees who have been good stewards of their cabins and the land, who are in good standing, and will be able to “directly negotiate with the Board to extend the lease for an additional term not to exceed twenty years”. This is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which is what the Hawai‘i system was modeled after when it was set up in 1918.

The recreational residence program in Kōke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau. It should remain that way.

This will continue to Preserve Cultural Heritage as we continue as a community to steward these historical cabins & their surrounding lands, ensuring their sustainability & stability for our future generations of Kaua‘i that we treasure. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!

We Thank You for your time. Please pass this measure!!!! I respectfully urge you to pass HB1348 HD2!

Mahalo,

Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen

Self employed, Zensations Massage Therapy

Kauai Native

[\(808\) 651-9492](tel:(808)651-9492)

kmjk@hawaii.rr.com

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:45:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Conrad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr Conrad stong support for passing bill unchanged

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:47:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PATRICIA CRUZ	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

Again, Kokee cabins are near and dear to generations of our family and we feel the lottery process will help our future generations to continue the legacy of keeping it a place to share its healing and mana!

Mahalo,

Patricia Cruz

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:56:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Hughes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DEAR COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elegance, Vice Chair

Date Friday March 14, 2025 1:00pm

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i

The bill has passed through the house and was amended by the committee of Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiations. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

Mahalo,

Chris Hughes

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 11:07:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Peter Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

John Peter Watts

makaleha_arts@yahoo.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Capitol

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: MEETING IN HONOLULU on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Aloha,

I have been a resident of the island of Kauai for more than forty-five years. My wife is a leaseholder at Koke'e. All three of my children were born here, as were two of my grandchildren.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and

Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

This amendment will provide a fair and affordable opportunity for local families like ours going forward.

I respectfully ask for your support in passing the Bill, as is. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Peter

1751 Hulu Road, Kapaa, Kauai, 96746

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:10:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Inouye and committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. This bill has passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strengthen the bill as they clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use the lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

This bill corrects several problems acknowledged by DLNR with the current legislation. One of those is addition of an incentive for lessees to maintain and even improve their cabins which was removed from the lessees when the State took ownership of the cabins in the 2008 leases. This will be vital in the future as lessees face the mandate to upgrade their cesspools to septic systems.

Please support HB1348 HD2.

Mahalo for your consideratin,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

LATE

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 5:00:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Doug Alexander

5965 Kini Pl

Kapaa, HI 96746

March 14, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of "HB 1348 HD2" RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Lorraine R. Inouye and Vice Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which in companion with SB 1517, amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

As kama'aina born and raised on Oahu and a longtime visitor to (and now resident of) Kauai, whose family has Kauai roots and has leased a recreational cabin in Koke'e State Park since the early part of the 20th century, I'm concerned that the process by which State Park Leases for recreational cabins have been granted may become untenable.

I point to the fairly recent public auction in April, 2024 of Leases for seven neglected cabins in Koke'e. The short of it is, the results of that event sent shock through the population of current Koke'e leaseholders, who interpreted the winning bids as establishing the new market for cabins

Park-wide ... not only for leaseholders in the renewal process, but for the population of Kauai and Niihau at large in future public lotteries. Our fear was that the State let one of its valued resources go the way of the O'o bird: the enriched experience of Koke'e State Park as a recreational resident, as opposed to a one-day tourist. Kauai County residents, optionally joined in hui by other Hawai'i residents, should feel they have a realistic chance of affording that experience at some point in their lives. The market for Koke'e cabin leases must be established with that in mind

Pertaining to the current Koke'e cabin leaseholders, we are doubly concerned that the path to Lease renewals will lead directly to public auction or lottery, without opportunity to negotiate with the State on fair market value. In the case of public auction, denial of this opportunity would be detrimental to many, if not most leaseholders in their ability to financially survive in an open auction competition. In the case of public lottery, opportunity for renewal would be reduced altogether and left to chance. As longtime stewards of the Koke'e leased lands who have given back to the area (voluntarily clearing invasive plants from hiking trails as an example), and as Leasees in good standing with the State regarding maintenance of dwelling structures, we'd hope our track records count for something. The area of Koke'e is peaceful and welcoming to visitors, and the people who recreationally reside there have a domain knowledge of maintaining the surroundings for all.

The two Bills referenced above are written to address the chief concerns we, the current leaseholders of Koke'e cabins, have regarding our Lease renewal. Particularly the opportunity to negotiate with the State on Lease renewals before such Leases are forwarded along to public auction or lottery. As well, for the sake of those bidding on any Leases that do land in the sphere of public auction or lottery, that a standard is set for qualification to register based on Kauai County residency (Kauai and Niihau) only ... protecting County residents from "big money" portfolios of off-island bidders that may artificially inflate market values .

Senators Inouye and Elefante, I trust in your abilities to see this through with objectivity and fairness, recognizing that Bill HB 1348 HD2, in companion with SB 1517, is in the best interest of Kauai County with regards to how recreational-residential use of Koke'e State Park lands should be managed.

mahalos for your time,

Doug Alexander

LATE

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:03:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kocher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

John Kocher

Mar.13th, 2025

P.O. Box 1013

Kalaheo, HI 96741

808-639-2178

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 14, 2025 TIME: 1:00 PM

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 which will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing. I also ask the Committee on Water and Land to pass HB1348 HD2 without further amendments.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

John Kocher

Halemanu Valley Lot 7

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 5:43:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joann Givens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Committee on Water and Land<

I am writing to support HB1348 HD2 to make it a fair process for our community to maintain leases in Kokee State Park. Our family has enjoyed our cabin in Kokee State Park for 3 generations . We have maintained and cared for the cabin and grounds. We thank you for your attention to this important bill.

HB-1348-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:12:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge you to pass HB1348 HD2 without amendments. As a life long resident i feel this is the only fair and equitable solution to the issue. Thanks,

David Smith