

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
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  
JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 25, 2025  
10:01 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1348, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

House Bill 1348, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 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 a lease 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 to invest the cash needed to maintain these historic cabins and install improvements. Plainly put, short-term leases will result in short-term commitments. 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. Furthermore, given that at least one lease for recreation-residence use per year is terminated and left vacant for years before the next disposition, and to create more frequent opportunities for the public to obtain a lease, the Department proposes the following amendment to HB 1348 to require vacant properties be disposed of by public lottery within 12 months of the property becoming vacant.

The Department proposes that under Section 4, page 4, line 16, omitting “and”; on lines 17 and 19, omitting the hyphen in “recreation-residence”; on line 20, replacing the period after “lottery” with a semicolon and the word “and”; and on subsequent lines, adding “(3)”, tab, and the following language: “For vacant recreation residences, held within twelve months of the recreation residence becoming vacant.” These amendments will ensure that more members of the public can obtain recreation residences and that vacant properties will not sit idle and become dilapidated before subsequent lotteries.

The proposed amendments read as follows:

(c) Recreation-residence use leases offered by public lottery shall:

- (1) Be offered at fair market value, to be determined by appraisal pursuant to section 171-17; ~~and~~
- (2) Be limited to one person per recreation[-]residence; provided that if two or more lessees intend to jointly reside in the same recreation[-]residence, only one lessee may enter the public lottery[-]; and
- (3) For vacant recreation residences, held within twelve months of the recreation residence becoming vacant.

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



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

March 25, 2025

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

**Senate JUDICIARY Committee**  
**Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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.

HB 1348, as currently drafted in SD1, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. **Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.**

I wanted to add that over the past week I have been working with State Parks leadership to craft a final amendment that we believe will be very beneficial to the public – which is to put a deadline on how long a vacant property can sit before the DLNR leases it out again. In this light, the KLA also supports the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. This is important since recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in HB 1348 SD1 as will help to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

To put the importance of this bill into context, 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, and the proposed amendments shown in SD1, 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 will allow 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 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 1348 SD1 and adopt the amendments being proposed by State Parks and help make the future management of this unique area a much more effective and fair and equitable process.

Me ke aloha a ka mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chipper Wichman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chipper Wichman, President  
Kōke'e Leaseholder Association

Joanne Acoba  
4571 Maile Road  
Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii 96796

March 23, 2025

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

**Hearing Date: March 25, 2025**

**Senate JUDICIARY Committee**

**Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair**

**Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I strongly support HB 1348 HD2 SD1, as it represents a significant step toward creating a fairer and more equitable process for community members to secure leases for recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua'i. This bill, which has advanced through the House and been refined by the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, now provides clear guidelines for when the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) should use a lottery system versus direct negotiations, ensuring future DLNR leadership has no ambiguity about the proposed process.

The current version of the bill (SD2) aims to achieve three key objectives: (1) recognize and reward current lessees in good standing who have responsibly cared for these unique park resources by allowing them opportunities for new leases, (2) ensure affordability by setting all rents at appraised value, and (3) establish a transparent method for acquiring available cabins through a lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the 20-year lease term is essential, as it incentivizes lessees to make necessary investments in maintaining these historic cabins, including costly projects such as roof repairs, hazardous tree removal, and infrastructure upgrades. Reducing the lease period would undermine this critical incentive.

Additionally, we support the DLNR's proposed amendment to require that vacant leases be offered via lottery within 12 months of becoming available. This ensures timely access to affordable leases for the public while encouraging proper maintenance of these properties. This amendment adds valuable language to the bill by expediting the lease process and benefiting the community.

I was born and raised in Makaweli, Kauai, now residing in Waimea. I am expressing strong support for HB 1348 HD2 SD1 and the amendments to HD1 proposed by State Parks. This legislation is essential to ensure a fair and equitable process for our community to obtain leases for recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua'i. The State Parks' proposed amendments are particularly important as they provide clear guidelines on when the Board of Land and Natural Resources should use a lottery system versus direct negotiation. These clarifications are crucial to prevent any ambiguity for future DLNR leaders regarding the implementation of this bill.

### **Historical and Cultural Importance**

The cabins at Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon are not just structures; they are a vital part of Kaua'i's cultural and historical heritage. Established as recreational retreats in the early 20th century, these cabins have served generations of families, offering respite from the coastal heat while fostering stewardship of the upland environment. Many of these cabins are over 50 years old and are recognized as contributing structures within a historic district. Preserving access to these cabins ensures that this legacy continues to benefit both current and future generations.

### **Challenges with the Current Lease Process**

The existing lease system has often been criticized for its lack of affordability, accessibility and fairness. The auction-based model disproportionately favors those with financial means, sidelining local families who have maintained these cabins for decades. Moreover, the process does not adequately account for the cultural and historic significance of these properties or the community's deep ties to them.

### **Benefits of HB 1348 HD2 SD1**

HB 1348 HD2 SD1 proposes reforms that would address these inequities by introducing a public lottery system for lease acquisition. This approach would:

1. Promote Equity: Ensure that all members of the Kaua'i & Ni'ihau communities have an equal opportunity to secure leases, regardless of financial status.
2. Preserve Cultural Heritage: Encourage local families with long-standing ties to Kōke'e to continue their stewardship of these historic cabins; allowing current leaseholders with credible and responsible stewards of their cabins be allowed to have first opportunity to renew

3. Foster Community Connection: Strengthen the bond between residents and these cherished public lands, ensuring their sustainable use and preservation for future generations.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

The residents of Kōke'e cabins have historically played a crucial role in maintaining the surrounding environment, including combating invasive species and preserving native flora and fauna. By making leases more accessible to local families, HB 1348 HD2 SD1 supports continued environmental stewardship that benefits all park visitors.

In conclusion, Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks are treasures that belong to all of us. HB 1348 HD2 SD1 represents a critical step toward ensuring that access to these parks—and their historic recreational cabins—is fair, equitable, and aligned with our shared values of cultural preservation and environmental sustainability.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1348 HD2 SD1 to protect this unique aspect of Kaua'i's heritage while fostering equity in access to public lands.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Joanne Acoba

Kaua'i native, Waimea High School Teacher (retired)

Cell: (808)652-2074

Email: [jojotanaka4@gmail.com](mailto:jojotanaka4@gmail.com)

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 1:56:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karin Carswell Guest	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

My family has leased our cabin in Koke'e for more than 60 years and we have always contributed with the Koke'e leaseholders association by helping with making new signs, clearing trails, and painting picnic benches in public areas. It's extremely important to give the families

that have been here for generations a chance to keep their cabins and take care of Koke'e like they have in the past. And also make it a fair process to lease vacant lots to residents of Kaua'i so they can enjoy this precious area.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Karin Carswell Guest

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 1:59:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Slaski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

David P Slaski RPh. LMT

Wailua, Kauai

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Thank you for your support of HB1348.

David P Slaski RPh. LMT

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:04:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Slaski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aldrea Slaski LMT

Wailua, Kauai

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Aldrea Slaski

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:06:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Russell McCluskey II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Russell McCluskey II, and I was born and raised on the island of Kaua‘i. I spend a significant amount of time in Kōke‘e, and I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1. If passed and signed into law, this bill will make the process of acquiring leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks much fairer and more equitable for our community.

This bill has already passed through the House and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. The changes made by this committee have strengthened the bill by clarifying when the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) should use the lottery system and when direct negotiation should be applied. It’s essential that future leaders within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are not left with any confusion about the process proposed in this bill.

As currently proposed in SD2, this bill seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been responsible stewards of these unique park resources by granting new leases to current lessees in good standing, (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability by ensuring all rents are set at appraised value, and (3) offer a fair process for acquiring available cabins by using a lottery system rather than an auction when they become available.

The 20-year lease period proposed in this bill is a critical element. It provides a strong incentive for lessees to invest in properly maintaining these historic cabins, especially when it comes to large, capital-intensive projects such as roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. I strongly urge you not to amend this section to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of the property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant regularly, and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts swiftly to make these properties available to the public, allowing responsible individuals to maintain and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the bill, helping to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,  
Russell McCluskey II  
Kaua'i Resident, Kōke'e Enthusiast

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:20:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Conrad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr Conrad in strong support of bill with agreement with DLNR recommendation for 20 year lease renewal system

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:23:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 4:02:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lesah Gail Merritt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD 1 Relating to public lands

Hearing Date; March 25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

I am writing in stong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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. This bill has passed thru the house and was amended by the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with changes that strenghten the bill as they clarify when the Bord of Land and Natural Resources should use te lottery and when they should use direct negotiation. We do not want future leaders in the DLNR to hve any confusion over the process this bill is proposing..

As a Kaua'i born and raised wahine, my family occupied a cabin in Puu ka pele till my early Adult life where i moved to the mainland for 10 years. Appreciating our island lifestyle and traditions, upon returning home, having the opportunity to spend time sharing a cabin in a Hui which helped the leaseholder afford her obligations while giving us a chance to raise our families in the mountains. Our hui consist of outstanding local families where our leaseholder has carried the lease for 40+ years. As a board member in the koke'e Leaseholders Assn., I was at the auction volunteering to assist DLNR in any way needed and I was deeply saddened by intense amount of money was thrown into the table and saw our locally born and raised families pull away. I hope to never have to witness that again. So please pass HB 1348 so our mountain community can still be enjoyed by our local Kaua'i people.

Malama Pono,

Lesah Merritt- Store Director Safeway Lihue



**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 5:39:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong support for HB 1348 HD2 SD1. This bill is crucial for ensuring a fairer and more equitable process for obtaining recreational residence cabin leases in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua'i.

The House has already approved this bill, and the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs has made valuable amendments. These changes clarify when the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) should use a lottery versus direct negotiation, preventing future confusion for DLNR leadership. We need this clarity to make sure the process is transparent and consistent.

The proposed SD2 version of the bill is important because it:

- Recognizes and rewards lessees who have responsibly cared for these park resources by allowing them to renew their leases.
- Makes the leases more affordable by setting rents at appraised values, creating a level playing field.
- Establishes a fair lottery system for acquiring vacant cabins, replacing the less equitable auction system.

Keeping the lease term at 20 years is essential. This longer term encourages lessees to invest in the necessary upkeep of these historic cabins, especially for costly projects like roof repairs, tree removal, and infrastructure improvements. Please, do not shorten this lease period.

I also support the DLNR's proposed amendments, which require vacant leases to be made available via lottery within 12 months. This is vital because these leases become vacant regularly, and this amendment ensures that the DLNR acts promptly to make them available to the public. This amendment speeds up the process of making these affordable leases available to the public, which is a very good thing.

Growing up on Kaua'i, the Kōke'e cabins were always a magical place. My family, like many others, dreamed of having a space there, a place to escape and connect with nature. But the reality of the auction system made that dream feel impossible. It wasn't about who loved the land more, but who had the most money. This bill offers a chance to change that, to make those

cabins accessible to everyday families like mine, and to ensure they're cared for by people who truly cherish them.

Thank you for your valuable time in this matter,

David Phillips

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 11:07:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angel Miyake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Angel Miyake, and I'm writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1. While I haven't lived on Kaua'i my entire life, my family's roots run deep here, and I'm proud to call this island home. The cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks are a vital part of our local history and culture, and they deserve policies that reflect their significance and the people who care for them.

This bill offers much-needed clarity and fairness in the leasing process. It honors those who have been responsible stewards of these cabins, creates equitable opportunities for others through a lottery system rather than an auction, and ensures that rents are set at appraised values — making them more accessible to regular families in our community.

The 20-year lease term is especially important. It gives lessees the confidence to invest in long-term maintenance and necessary upgrades — from replacing roofs and repairing driveways to clearing hazardous trees and improving waterlines. Shortening the lease term would discourage this kind of investment and jeopardize the preservation of these historic structures.

I also support DLNR's proposed amendment to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months. This is a practical, fair, and timely way to get these special places into the hands of those who will continue to care for and enjoy them.

Please pass HB 1348 HD2 SD1 as written. This bill supports fairness, responsible stewardship, and access for local families — all essential to keeping the spirit of Kōkeʻe and Waimea Canyon alive for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With aloha,

Angel Miyake

Lihue, Kauaʻi

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 7:07:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jan TenBruggencate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good and a fair bill regarding the use of state lands on Kaua`i. Our community benefits from having local families using and engaged in our state recreational and conservation lands.

**Frank O. Hay**  
[kokee@okauai.com](mailto:kokee@okauai.com)

March 22, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

BY EMAIL ONLY

MEETING IN HONOLULU on March 25, 2025, at 10.01 am in Conference Room 016

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

Aloha, Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

This bill would in essence adopt a very successful method used by the US Forest Service to manage some 14,000 recreation residences in the National Forests throughout the United States, that was used by State Parks until 1985. It recognizes the value of the cultural landscape and the lessees' part in maintaining it, as well as the surrounding parks and forests.

But in 1985, the Land Board surprisingly decided to auction the leases. I attended that bitter and disputed auction, where fifty-one out of one hundred and eleven cabins changed hands – the first in our now more than one hundred-year-old community. My lease rent jumped eleven fold.

This bill authorizes the Board 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 the most 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.

HRS 171-44 authorizes twenty-year leases, which are reasonable and allow lessees sufficient time to amortize any improvements – for cabins ranging from forty to one hundred years old. Any term less than twenty years only reduces that incentive.

I ask your strong support in passing the Bill, with the amendments proposed by State Parks. May I respectfully suggest that the effective date be at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year, on July 1, 2025. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter to the Kauai community.

Very truly yours,



268 Hua Place, Wailua Mauka, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746-9608  
(808) 635-3226

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 11:03:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of our hui of 5 families who are cabin leaseholders in Kokee we are in strong support of HB1348 HD2 SD1 which will lead to a more equitable process for our community to acquire leases in the future. Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. all of which we have had to do in the last 10 years. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period. We also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 4:55:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Peter Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

John Peter Watts

makaleha\_arts@yahoo.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

March 22, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 HD 2 SD1

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

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 SD1, which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill, as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

I respectfully ask for your support in passing this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this most important matter.

Very truly yours,

Peter

1751 Hulu Road, Kapa'a, Kaua'i

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2025 5:33:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1, which, if passed and signed into law, will at last create a more fair and equitable process for Kaua`i County residents to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke`e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest in proper maintenance of the historic cabins, especially undertaking large expensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline and septic upgrades. Please *do not* amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible.

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 our 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 Faye road, pruning plum orchards, and, for the past 15 years, founding and organizing the annual Pedal to the Meadow bicycle race.

Mahalo for your consideration of these improvements.  
Mary Williamson, for the Danford/Williamson family

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 9:30:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marty Kuala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support and beg that you pass HB1348 which will provide a more fair way for the State to handle leasing cabins at Kokee and Waimea Canyon State parks. Keeping the lease term at at least 20 yrs is vital to insure lessees take a serious approach to their responsibility of maintenance of the cabin property and a 20 yr term will encourage lease ownership by people who love and respect our forest and island history.and culture. Please support this bill and show your aloha for Kauai and our people. Sicerely, Marty Kuala

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 9:42:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kibble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

As a lifetime resident of Kauai and a current leaseholder we hope the legislature is aware that shortening the leases would be detrimental to the state as well as the leaseholders who put in so much time and effort to maintain our cabins in a liveable state as well as working with the Kokee

State Park as stewards of the aina.

Mahalo for your support in the passage of this bill with a long term lease.

Nick Beck and Elizabeth Kibble

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 12:43:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
marau beck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

thank you

Marau Beck



Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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. Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant.

Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Both my wifes family and my family lost cabins during the first auction. To make matters worse the people who outbid my wifes family for their cabin, never paid for the cabin and ended up stealing it from them. This was prior to the state owning the cabins. Please don't let that happen again.

Our family is still lucky enough to have a cabin at Kokee. We love it there. We help tourists who are lost. We help the State maintain the roads. We share our cabin with many friends and relatives who are so thrilled to be able to enjoy the beauty of Kokee.

We have seen with grief the lottery system and its affects on Kauai residents. Especially those of us who have lived on Kauai for over a 100 years.

Please support this proposed legislation as written.

Thank you for your time.

Peter Baldwin

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 4:05:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonila Sosner	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

Hearing Date: March25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e ad Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value) (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase

loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UNPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

Please keep Koke'e as it's always been – a place to gather our loved ones, talk story, share food, tend and steward the land that tends to our soul. By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who has donated and volunteered for agencies like the Forest Bird Recovery, Hawaii Native Conservation, Koke'e Resource Conservation, Koke'e Museum. By supporting this bill you support our Kauai county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e. Mahalo Nui!

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 5:13:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorraine Wichman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Anthony and Lorraine Wichman

P. O . Box 929

Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756

Subject: Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

Hearing Date: March25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e ad Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value) (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous

tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

Please keep Koke'e as it's always been – a place to gather our loved ones, talk story, share food, tend and steward the land that tends to our soul. By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who has donated and volunteered for agencies like the Forest Bird Recovery, Hawaii Native Conservation, Koke'e Resource Conservation, Koke'e Museum. By supporting this bill you support our Kauai county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e. Mahalo Nui!

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 5:31:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joanne Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joanne Murphy

237 Kipu Place

Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

(808) 346 -1201

Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

March 25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value)

(3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who watches out for vandalism, who clear roadways, give valuable advice to hikers, help look for missing hikers,

Thank you so very much - Joanne Murphy

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 5:56:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mary Ann Alexander Lentz  
of O‘ahu, Kona District, Moku of Honolulu

March 23, 2025 Resident

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1348 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.**For meeting March 25, 2025**Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery**

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Aloha Chair Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Mike Gabbard, and committee

I am writing in **strong support of HB1348 HD2 SD1** 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 “menchune 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.

**This bill will allow us to negotiate to renew our lease for 20 years based on the value of the land upon which this humble cabin sits. HB1348 HD2 SD1 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 SD1 and urge its passing.** Mahalo for your attention.

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 6:42:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Billi Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Billi M. Smith

P. O. Box 815

Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756

Subject: Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348, which if passed and signed into law, will provide for our community, a fair and equitable process to acquire recreational leases in Koke'e Waimea Canyon State Parks on of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House, Committee on Judiciary and Office of Hawaiian Affairs

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to:

(1) reward lessees that are quality stewards of park resources and in good standing, will be granted new leases,

1. determine rents at appraised value, and

(3) that the process for acquiring available cabins be fair through a lottery system than an auction.

In addition, the 20-year lease period is a strong incentive for leaseholders to maintain these cabins, especially large capital and intensive projects i.e. roof replacements, waterline upgrades,

hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements, to name a few. Do not amend this section with a shorter lease period.

There continues to be an influx of new residents to Kauai who have no understanding and/or knowledge of Koke'e/Waimea Canyon characteristics: spiritual, the flora and fauna culture and the extinction of native birds and plants. Based on my experiences, "new" leaseholders, not born on Kauai, do not know nor demonstrate respect and honor for these wahi pana (special places). Without this intrinsic knowledge and appreciation, the impact on native animals, plants and places are threatened. There is a likelihood that the upkeep, cabin maintenance would not happen nor the payment of lease fees. There have been situations where lessees abandon their residence, causing further damage to these cabins.

Koke'e and Waimea Canyon must continue to be that special it has always been – a place to gather, talk story, share food and steward lands that rejuvenate our spirit and connections to our soul that have provided generations that it is our kuleana (responsibility) to malama (take care) these lands. I strongly urge your support of this bill since we, residents of Kauai have been and always will be the mind, body and spirit for Koke'e and Waimea Canyon lands and for generations. It matters to our families and for future generations, to support this bill. Mahalo nui loa for doing what is pono (righteous) for Kauai and our future. Mahalo Nui Loa!

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 6:50:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Moana Huff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Mahalo,

Patti and Kevin Huff



**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 7:43:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lindsey Lee-Hornstine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e ad Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value) (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

Please keep Koke'e as it's always been – a place to gather our loved ones, talk story, share food, tend and steward the land that tends to our soul. By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who has donated and volunteered for agencies like the Forest Bird Recovery, Hawaii Native Conservation, Koke'e Resource Conservation, Koke'e Museum. By supporting this bill you support our Kauai county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e. Mahalo Nui!



**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 9:51:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy J. Budd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 10:50:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jimmy Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Jimmy Johnson

Kapaa HI

808.639.9675

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 5:39:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deena Fontana Moraes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

As Kama'aina to this beautiful island of Kaua'i, I had the opportunity to spend a great deal of my childhood in Koke'e state park. Our moments together in the mountains as a family instilled in me a profound sense of appreciation for and kuleana to care for our island home. As an adult

resident of Kaua'i, parent and principal in the Hawai'i Department of Education, this sense not only persists in all that I do but also has informed the education that I instill in my son and all the students of our school.

Most recently, our family participated in the auction that took place last year. Although we were deeply blessed to have been awarded one of the cabins, our benefit has been hard earned through immense time, effort and energy of our entire family pooling our resources together to bring the awarded cabin up to a usable state. It seems only fair that through our service as stewards of the land, that we would have the opportunity to extend the lease for a twenty year period. It also seems fair that we have the opportunity to directly negotiate the terms of the lease to be based on the fair market value of the land.

Finally, the lottery system is highly preferable to the auction, which yielded inflated costs that would be inaccessible and unsustainable to most residents of our island; residents who also share the love of the land and the responsibility to continue to care for our home.

Thank you for considering this testimony. I truly believe that HB 1348 best serves the interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Deena Moraes

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 5:46:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Fontana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

To share a more personal testimony for the bill, I have been a lessee in Kokee and have spent many wonderful years with my family enjoying the mountain, maintaining my cabin and helping to clear public trails. It has been a great experience as a father and a grandfather to raise a strong

family that has served the island in public and private occupations with the experiences they gained in Kokee.

I am writing to express that if Bill HB1348 passes, that both state goals to preserve cabins and current lease holder goals will be served.

As a leaseholder who was awarded a bid in last years auction, my family and I have invested over \$50K and countless hours of tireless work to bring our Lot 83 cabin from an abandoned termite infested wreck up to usable standards in alignment with historical integrity. With this in mind, it seems only just that we would be able to have the opportunity to extend the lease for a twenty year period to enjoy the fruits of this investment. I have personally spoken to many other leaseholders who say that they too would spend large sums on preserving their cabins if they knew that they would have the ability to renegotiate their leases on termination at a fair price determined at a universally applied assessment of value on the land only. I also believe that should a leaseholder choose not to renew his lease, a public lottery of the land to other local residents is highly preferable to the auction that yielded exorbitant costs that were inaccessible to most local people.

The current Bill HB 1348 would allow the state to continue to receive rent seamlessly, avoid huge losses in revenues, and preserve cabins from falling into ruin. By ensuring that the terms remain for twenty years, the demands to manage the properties would be mitigated for the state and safe keeping of the state's assets would be ensured for a longer period of time.

I thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion. I truly hope that for the well being of our island residents, the states interests and also for my family that HB1348 passes. It is truly in the best interest of all.

Sincerely,

Bill Fontana

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:16:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie W Minson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canton State Parks on the island of Kauai. 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, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward leasees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing for the current leasees 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for leasees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades, etc. Please do not amend this sections of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Kokee and Waimea State Parks are treasured places to my family and to the residents of Kauai. We have loved and cared for these places on behalf of the people of Kauai for over 100 years. We must make HB1348 a law so that they will be preserved for future generations.

Thank you,

Julie W Minson

John Kocher  
P O Box 1013  
Kalaheo, Hi. 96741  
808-639-2178

To: Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and all members of the State Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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 Park on the Island of Kauai. 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 DNLR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

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Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. Etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

I consider myself lucky to be a part of Koke'e and especially Halemanu Vally and Lot 7 for 5 generations. The house was built by Mr Powers and his sons, then harbor master at Port Allen, in the 1920's. My grandfather John Sheehan bought the home in 1930. Since that time, I've seen ice boxes on the back porch, kerosene lamps, gas stoves and refrigerators and now we have electricity and wi-fi.

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The valley was fortunate to have a spring feeding the back of the valley. My grandfather and the other valley members built a small dam that is still there today. They ran metal pipes from the dam down the valley and up to a redwood storage tank. From there, pipes ran down the road t-ing off at each house giving water to the homes. Since then the residents have purchased a 3,000 gallon stainless steel tank from the old Waimea Dairy and installed it where the redwood tank was. The water lines from the dam were replaced using PVC and from the tank to each house where we have shut off valve boxes. The costs were absorbed not by the State but, by the homeowners of Halemanu. Our house has replaced all the old metal pipes with copper lines.

---

20 year leases seems the most practical for all involved. We've reroofed our home, installed on demand water heater still leaving the old style of heat pipes in the back of the fire place with a storage tank outside the fire place in case of power outages. We had to tent our house because of termites and I believe we were the only home in the valley that had too. We recently cut and split the dead trees on our property into firewood size. A big project. Our yard is always mowed and the bushes trimmed. With electricity coming into the valley, we wired our home and now includes lights, phone and wi-fi. A 20 year lease seems fair with all the money we spend to upkeep the house.

The road leading into Halemanu is close to a mile long. The State helps us out when huge trees fall and block the road. Other than that, the residents clear the road when trees block it. The maintenance of the road is in our hands. We've rented excavators to channel the water off the road. Smooth the road where needed and other than that, we have the greatest steward of the valley that purchases gravel and fills in all the holes year in and year out. He loves this valley and so do I. The State does not maintain our road.

The people of Kauai and especially Koke'e are a great resource for the State and the State should recognize the value they have in these people.

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Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible.

Sincerely,

John (Jed) Kocher

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:00:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sasha Doorish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sasha Doorish

4673E Puuwai Rd.

Kalaheo, HI 96741

To: Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and all members of the State Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SDI which if passed and signed into law 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 Park on the Island of Kauai. 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 DNLR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

My children are the part of 5 generations that have been a part of Koke'e and Halemanu Valley. We have created endless traditions and cherished memories here celebrating everything from Birthdays, Easter Egg Hunts, vacations from School/Work, Hosting visiting Ohana & countless Holidays, to days when we just needed to "unplug" and retreat to the serenity of Koke'e; and a few sad times as well, including in 2018 when we had our entire Ohana at the Cabin/property for a reunion, and my Father suffered a fatal Heart attack. Our cabin in Koke'e is the last place most of our Ohana saw my Dad alive. I go to our cabin often to feel his presence, as it is a special place for me, where I can feel connected to him and look back on so many memories created in Koke'e. To lose our family's Cabin in Koke'e would be beyond devastating for our Ohana.

Twenty year leases seems the most practical for all involved. My father in law and his his Ohana before me have reroofed our home, installed on demand water heater still leaving the old style of heat pipes in the back of the fire place with a storage tank outside the fire place in case of power outages. We had to tent our house because of termites. We recently cut and split the dead trees on our property into firewood size which was a huge undertaking and took several days to complete. We take pride in maintaining our property we love, our yard is always mowed and the bushes trimmed. We now have had phone lines and wifi put in, in addition to electricity that was brought in many years ago. A 20 year lease seems fair with all the money we spend to upkeep the house and property. The people of Kauai and especially Koke'e are a great resource for the State and the State should recognize the value they have in these people.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. Etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration into this Bill and what it means to our Ohana and Kauaians alike. We have been truly blessed to have our cabin in Halemanu Valley to create the memoires we have, and we can only hope to continue these traditions with our children's children, and them with theirs...

My Sincere Gratitude,

Sasha Doorish

808.652.7608

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:02:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Viola Atou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 1348 HD2 SD1 that creates a fair process for acquiring leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. Mahalo.

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:19:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clancy DOORISH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clancy Doorish

P.O. Box 1023

Koloa, HI 96756

To: Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and all members of the State Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SDI which if passed and signed into law 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 Park on the Island of Kauai. 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 DNLR to have any confusion over the process this bill is proposing.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. Etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.



A Twenty year lease seems the most practical for all involved. We've reroofed our home, installed on demand water heater still leaving the old style of heat pipes in the back of the fire place with a storage tank outside the fire place in case of power outages. We had to tent our house because of termites. We recently cut and split the dead trees on our property into firewood size. A big project. Our yard is always mowed and the bushes trimmed. With electricity coming into the valley, we wired our home and now includes lights, phone and wi-fi. A 20 year lease seems fair with all the money we spend to upkeep the house.

The road leading into Halemanu is close to a mile long. The State helps us out when huge trees fall and block the road. Other then that, the residents clear the road when trees block it. The maintenance of the road is in our hands. We've rented excavators to channel the water off the road. Smooth the road where needed and other then that, we have the greatest steward of the valley that purchases gravel and fills in all the holes year in and year out. He loves this valley and so do I. The State does not maintain our road.

The people of Kauai and especially Koke'e are a great resource for the State and the State should recognize the value they have in these people.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible.

Thank you for the oppurtunity to submit supportive testimoty for this Bill HB1348.

Sincerely,

Clancy Doorish

808-634-6482

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:28:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
patrice pendarvis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Patrice Pendarvis

P. O . Box 704

Kilauea, Kauai, Hawaii 96754

Subject: Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

Hearing Date: March25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committee on

Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for therecreational residence cabins in Koke’e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua`i. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

I have just found out I am to be a grandmother. I want my future grandchild to grow up as my son has , 6th generation Kaua`i born, so Please keep Koke’e as it’s always been – a place to gather our loved ones, talk story, share food, tend and steward the land that tends to our soul.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to

(1) reward lessees who have been qualitystewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted newleases

(2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value)

(3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UNPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who has donated and volunteered for agencies like the Forest Bird Recovery, Hawaii Native Conservation, Koke'e Resource Conservation, Koke'e Museum.

By supporting this bill you support our Kauai county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e.

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:32:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Kokee is a special place for local families and I'm hoping we can give the opportunity to those families that upkeep and appreciate the special place that it is and to new local families if that opportunity presents. My family has been fortunate to enjoy the State park for most of my life but unfortunately lost our residence many years ago.

mahalo for your time and consideration!

Patricia Cruz

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:47:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherin Nalani Hance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

Our families have been visiting Kokee State Park for generations. We lost our family cabins years ago and want to insure that those families who still have their cabins can keep theirs, and that the lottery system can open up to local island residents if the opportunity presents itself.

Please share this message.

With Aloha,

Katherin Nalani Hance

**LATE**

Patricia R. Ornellas  
P. O . Box 43  
Kalaheo, Kauai, Hawaii 96741

Subject: Testimony in Support of 1348 SD 1 Relating to Public Lands

Hearing Date: March25, 2025

Senate JUDICIARY Committee  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e ad Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value) (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining a 20-year lease period is crucial as it encourages lessees to invest in necessary upkeep and large projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, and more. Please keep this section of the bill unchanged.

Reducing the lease term would lessen lessees' commitment to park stewardship and improvements. It would lead to more abandoned cabins, unpaid fees, increased law enforcement, and higher state costs for inspections, appraisals, and managing lotteries. Additionally, it would severely harm our island's unique environment and cultural connection.

Please keep Koke'e as it's always been – a place for family, stewardship, and connection to the land. Supporting this bill with the 20-year lease term honors the current lessees who have cared for Koke'e for generations and supported local conservation efforts. This bill helps preserve Koke'e's legacy.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Patti Ornellas**

Patricia "Patti" Ornellas

**LATE**

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 10:56:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Hughes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee of Judiciary.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which is passed and signed into law 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 was 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.

The bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessors who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing for current lessors 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessors to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, and waterline upgrades. etc. PLEASE DO NOT AMEND THIS SECTION OF THE BILL TO A SHORTER LEASE PERIOD.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on

a regular basis and this ammendment will insure thatv DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible.

Thank you

Christine Hughes

**LATE**

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 11:47:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 SD 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

**Hearing Date: March 25, 2025**

**Senate JUDICIARY Committee**

**Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair**

**Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements,

hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. **Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.**

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

As a life long Kauai Resident, I have been privileged to enjoy the use of family and friends cabins in Kokee since childhood. Being taught to respect and care for this precious resource by my grandparents and parents has made me desire to continue to protect and care for Kokee State Park. It is our kuleana to continue to share and teach our children, grandchildren and future generations to nurture this valuable resource. Our being able to retain our leases and maintain the historic homes is critical to the success of the future of Kokee. We are the stewards of this place that is so sacred to our community.

Please support the amendments and pass HB 1348 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Katherine Goodale Richardson

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 11:53:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Nobrega-Olivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Our ‘ohana from Hanapēpē, Kaua‘i is writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law 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 also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them.

Mahalo,

Malia Nobrega-Olivera  
on behalf of our ‘ohana here on the westside of Kaua‘i

**LATE**

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 12:51:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sami Loidl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am a 24 year old Pacific Islander who won a lease in the 2024 auction, and **I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 for the future of Kaua'i**. If passed and signed into law, this 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

**LATE**

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 4:54:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally create 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, as currently proposed in SD2, 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.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially when it comes to undertaking large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, hazardous tree removal, driveway and access improvements, and waterline upgrades. etc. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Finally, we also support the amendments being proposed by the DLNR to make vacant leases available via lottery within 12 months of that property becoming vacant. Recreational residence leases become vacant on a regular basis and this amendment will ensure that DLNR acts quickly to get these vacant properties into the hands of the public who will maintain them and enjoy them. This is a valuable addition to the language in the bill as it helps to get affordable leases into the hands of the public as rapidly as possible!

I have been a lessee since 1989 and deeply love the opportunity to be in and enjoy our fabulous natural environment just by walking out from our cabin. We are about to invest almost \$20,000 to put a new roof on the cabin and are doing so in the firm belief that it is the right thing to do and the hope that you will pass this bill which will allow us to continue to enjoy that new roof for

many years to come. We also belong to the Koke'e Leaseholders Association which has been a strong supporter of both parks with money and manpower to protect and improve State assets (such as the Pavilions at the Meadow and Puu ka Pele lookout) over the years.

I implore you to pass this legislation as described above.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

**LATE**

**HB-1348-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:58:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/25/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maureen Hiramoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 HD2 SD1 which if passed and signed into law will finally make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Koke'e ad Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai. This bill has passed through the House and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs with strong clarification on the lottery system.

This bill, as currently proposed in SD2, seeks to (1) reward lessees who have been quality stewards of these unique park resources by allowing those in good standing to be granted new leases (2) level the playing field in terms of affordability (by setting all rents at appraised value) (3) allow a fair process for acquiring available cabins when they become available by offering them via lottery rather than an auction.

Maintaining the lease period at 20 years is a critical element of this bill as it provides strong incentive for lessees to invest the money needed to properly maintain these historic cabins, and especially large capital-intensive projects like roof replacements, waterline upgrades, hazardous tree removal, driveway access improvements and many more. Please do not amend this section of the bill to a shorter lease period.

Reducing the lease term would reduce lessees' commitments to install improvements and to be stewards of park resources / agencies. Our island is growing at an incredible rate with the influx of people with no understanding of the names of the rain, fog, trees, indigenous plants and animals that are now threatened of being extinct. They have no spiritual or past connection to our islands. It would increase loud parties that would require more law enforcement presence. It would increase more cabins being abandoned and FEES UPAID. It would increase the state burden to follow up on those late or unpaid permit holders. It would increase site inspections, possible state improvements to make it safe for new lessees, appraisals, process notices and administer the frequent lotteries.

Please keep Koke'e as it's always been – a place to gather our loved ones, talk story, share food, tend and steward the land that tends to our soul. By supporting this bill with the current 20 year lease term supports the current lessees who have been the eyes and ears for Koke'e's forest landscape for generations, who has donated and volunteered for agencies like the Forest Bird Recovery, Hawaii Native Conservation, Koke'e Resource Conservation, Koke'e Museum. By supporting this bill you support our Kauai county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e. Mahalo Nui!

