

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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1348
RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS**

House Bill 1348 proposes to authorize the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease public lands for recreational-residential 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 recreational 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 recreational 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Joanne Acoba
4571 Maile Road
Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii 96796

February 3, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Joanne (Tanaka) Acoba, I was born and raised in Makaweli, Kauai, now residing in Waimea. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1348, which seeks to 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.

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

HB 1348 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 community 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.
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 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 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 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



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

February 4, 2025

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

Hearing before the COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

9:00 am Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I 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 have a lease but want to secure a lease on a cabin up at Kōke'e.

Rep Dee Morikawa introduced HB 1348 and it reflects a common vision that both our leaseholder community and State Parks support. 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 said how important this legislation is for our community. I strongly encourage you to support HB1348 as it is written and help make the awarding of leases a much more fair and equitable process.

Me ke aloha a ka mahalo,

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

Chipper Wichman, President
Kōke'e Leaseholder Association

[HB1348](#)

Companion: SB1517

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in **SUPPORT of HB1348**

By restricting the lottery to residents of the county, the policy ensures that local people have priority access to public lands. This can help support the local community by providing them with opportunities for recreation and residential use without competition from people outside the area.

A lottery system allows for a more equal distribution of land leases. It reduces the potential for favoritism or bias in the leasing process, ensuring that those who are randomly selected have an equal chance to secure a lease.

The recreational-residential use of public lands could increase local tourism and promote recreational activities. Local residents benefiting from these leases might also stimulate local economies through spending on nearby businesses.

Allowing local residents to lease public lands for recreational use can help strengthen their connection to the environment. People who have more access to natural spaces are often more inclined to advocate for their preservation and sustainability.

This type of lease could lead to more active, responsible use of public lands, preventing land from sitting unused or neglected. It might also foster a sense of stewardship among those who live close to the land.

Please Consider:

Implementing a public lottery can be administratively complex. There would need to be a clear system for applications, a transparent process for selecting winners, and an effective way to manage lease agreements. Additionally, monitoring land use and compliance with lease conditions could be resource-intensive.

While the idea of a public lottery for recreational-residential land leases can foster local engagement and equity, it needs careful implementation to address potential issues like land overuse, administrative burdens, and fairness in participation. Ensuring environmental protections and clear eligibility criteria would be essential to the success of this policy.

Mahalo,

_____/s/_____
Cindy Freitas

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:18:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself who strongly support this Bill to allow lessees on Hawai'i Public Lands to negotiate directly with the State. I have seen personally the devastation caused by lotteries at Kokee. I have been a lessee for a long time, and love the area, love sharing it respectfully with guests and would hate to see it turn into another area of our islands owned by non locals. Our family has been on Kauai since the late 1800s and our hearts are in the mountains.

We have many times helped tourist out of situations by either towing cars out of areas they should not belong, assisting them on trails when lost and sharing our aloha along the hikes. Our Kokee community is so unique that it would be a shame to lose it.

I thank the Committee for their hard work on this issue, and urge your support without amendments.

Aloha

Peter Baldwin

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:18:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Jimmy and Terrie Johnson

6540 Kipapa Road

Kapaa HI 96746

February 1, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

We are writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Our family has enjoyed the protected beauty of Kokee since 1989 and would like to preserve this area for future generations. **Overall, we want to support HB1348 and companion bill SB 1517 in their entirety as drafted.** We want to support it as it is currently written. We may need to amend the language as it goes along but for now are not asking for the bill to be amended.

#1. HB1348 give the DLNR the ability to hold a lottery for vacant recreational residence cabins rather than an auction.

The April 2024 auction of seven long neglected cabins demonstrated once and for all that an auction is not the right mechanism to make cabins available to the residents of Kauai. The auction drove annual lease rent up to the point that 99% of the local residents on Kauai will never be able to afford a recreational residence cabin in Koke'e.

1. 2024 auction process resulted in cabins that were totally dilapidated going for annual lease rents in the \$30-\$40K range. This is beyond the reach of multigenerational local residents with regular jobs and families - even if they form a hui to help cover the costs.

The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system.

#2. Only people who are residents of the same County where the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in the lottery for a cabin lease.

This is extremely important for the people of Kauai County as they will be drowned out by a wave of lottery applicants from other counties with much high population numbers.

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

#3. HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest their own money to care for and improve these historic properties that are owned by the State.

By excluding the value of any of on-site improvements (made by the lessee during the term of their lease) in determining the fair market value of a lease when it is up for renewal this bill provides an important incentive for lessees to make the costly improvements like a roof replacement.

#4. HB1348 incentivizes lessees to remain in good standing and truly abide by the terms of their lease and be good stewards of the property as it allows for lessees in “good standing” to be able to renew their lease when the lease comes to an end.

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

The State currently has little ability to enforce the terms of the recreational residence leases due to limited staffing but 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.

#5. We support the idea of a one-time fee of \$1,200 for any lease which is being transferred to a new lessee.

This is only fair and helps to compensate State Parks for the work their staff has to do to accommodate this lease transfer.

Mahalo for your consideration, Jimmy and Terrie Johnson

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 6:16:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

David Slaski RPh. LMT

Wailua, Kaua'i

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I strongly support a lottery system for any Kokee cabin property that is available for lease. I feel this is the only fair process to assign new leases to these properties. This will provide a fair and just playing field for any Kaua'i or Niihau resident wishing to obtain a property. If NOT done in

this way, the result will be having only the people with the deepest pockets being able to obtain a property. This was already witnessed with the seven "orphan" cabins that were auctioned in 2024.

I also strongly believe that any current leaseholder, in good standing with the state, who has demonstrated their ability to stuard the land, should have first opportunity to renew their current lease under the 20 year renewal terms. These leaseholders not only love and take care of their cabins and land, but they also act as stewards to Kokee state park as well, thus enhancing the community and character of Kokee State Park as a whole.

thank you for your time and your support of HB1348.

David Slaski RPh. LMT

Testimony in Support of HB 1348

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

DATE: February 4, 2025

FROM: Angel Miyake, Resident of Kaua'i

SUBJECT: Strong Support for HB 1348 – RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is **Angel Miyake**, and I am a resident of **Kaua'i**. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1348**, which provides a fair and sustainable solution for the long-term management of recreational residence leases in **Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks**.

For years, the current leasing and auction process has created uncertainty for local families who have cared for these properties for generations. **HB 1348 addresses these concerns by:**

- Replacing the auction system with a **public lottery**, ensuring that leases are awarded fairly.
- Limiting lease eligibility to **Kaua'i and Ni'ihau residents**, preserving access for local families.
- Allowing **lease renewals for existing lessees in good standing for up to 20 years**, providing much-needed stability.
- Basing **lease rent on land value only**, rather than including improvements made by leaseholders.

As a community member, I believe this bill is a **huge step toward fairness and transparency** in how the state manages these valuable public lands. This legislation will ensure that **local residents—not outside investors—continue to have access to Kōke'e cabins for generations to come**.

I urge you to **pass HB 1348** and help create a more equitable lease renewal system for Kaua'i residents. **Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

Sincerely,
Angel Miyake

Stacy M. Sproat
P.O. Box 187, Kilauea, HI 96754

February 1, 2025

TO: **COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**
The Honorable Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

For hearing on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 9:00AM , via videoconference/Room 411

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to create a more equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauaʻi.

My family have been leaseholders in Kokeʻe since I was in high school in 1986. Since we live on the north shore of Kauaʻi, we would go to Kokeʻe once a year and my dad would make us repair the house and clean the yard for a week after which we would have a couple days to relax, hike and learn about the native forest before having to go home. My dad made sure that my sisters and I knew how to identify maile and mokihana and that's a skill I carry with me and have taught my kids, nieces and nephews. The intact native forest and rare native birds have inspired so many of our family and friends to volunteer, work actively, and become leaders in ecosystem conservation and restoration. Our cabin has hosted school classes, hunting families, lei makers, conservationists and so many local families across almost forty years, providing priceless memories for multiple generations.

The auction through which we got this cabin was a horrible experience, and today's auctions are many times worse. With over 33 billionaires and so many more millionaires in Kauaʻi's communities today, local people will never be able to get or keep a cabin if the auctions continue. A lottery will give local residents a chance to someday have a cabin of their own. Other terms in this bill provide important support to leaseholders as well.

As the legislative chair of the Kokeʻe Leaseholders Association, I have been working with our committee and very closely with the State Parks staff for years to try to identify better solutions to challenging issues such as these. This bill is that solution.

Please support HB1348.

Mahalo nūnui, with deep gratitude,



Stacy M. Sproat

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:06:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Osakoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 1348, help keep kokee for local Kauai residents

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:26:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please do what is Pono, and support SB1348, so that the keiki of Kauai, our future generations, will still have an opportunity to lease Kokee cabin through a lottery. Kokee Cabins belong to Kauai residents, and should remain in the hands of Kauai residents.

Sincerely, Susan Keller

Kausi resident since 1976

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:36:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kara Williams, and I am a resident of Kaua'i and my family is one of the original Koke'e leaseholders. I strongly support HB1348, which seeks to establish a fair and transparent lottery system for leasing cabins on public lands for recreation-residence use.

Hawaii's public lands are a treasured resource, and this bill ensures that access to recreation-residential leases is distributed equitably. By implementing a lottery system, the bill promotes fairness in lease allocation, preventing exclusive access and ensuring that more residents have an opportunity to enjoy these spaces. Additionally, the bill prioritizes county residents, recognizing their deep-rooted connection to the land while maintaining environmental, cultural, and scenic values.

The proposed lease extensions for tenants in "good standing" incentivize responsible land stewardship, while market-based pricing ensures that leases remain financially fair for the state and taxpayers. The bill also introduces a reasonable fee structure for lease transfers, ensuring proper management and oversight of public land use.

This legislation strikes a balance between responsible land management and increased access for residents, aligning with the long-term vision of sustainability and fairness in public land use. I urge this committee to pass [Bill Name/Number] and help create a more equitable and transparent leasing process for Hawaii's public lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,
Kara Williams

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:12:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bruce Williams, and I am a long-standing resident of Kauai. I strongly support HB 1348 , which seeks to establish a fair and transparent lottery system for leasing cabins on public lands for recreation-residence use.

This issue is deeply personal to me because my great-grandfather originally obtained land in this area with the purpose of protecting and preserving Hawaii's native plants and birds. He recognized the importance of these lands not just for recreation, but for conservation and cultural preservation. For generations, my family has maintained a strong connection to these lands, continuing his commitment to stewardship and sustainability.

By implementing a lottery system, this bill ensures that access to recreation-residential leases is distributed fairly, preventing exclusivity and allowing more residents the opportunity to enjoy and care for these spaces. Prioritizing county residents is also crucial, as it acknowledges the deep-rooted ties that local families have with the land while maintaining its environmental, cultural, and scenic values.

Additionally, the bill provides a responsible balance between access and accountability by allowing lease extensions for tenants in "good standing," ensuring that those who respect and care for the land can continue to do so. The fair market pricing and structured lease transfer fees further promote responsible management of public lands while keeping them accessible to local residents.

This legislation is a step forward in ensuring that Hawaii's public lands remain protected, accessible, and well-maintained. It upholds fairness, sustainability, and the cultural connection that so many families, including mine, have with these lands. I urge this committee to pass HB1348 so that future generations can continue to experience and care for the land just as my great-grandfather intended.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Bruce Williams

808-346-5632

Lea Weldon
P.O. Box 1665
Hanalei, HI 96714

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My name is Lea Weldon and I grew up on the north shore of Kaua'i and Halele'a is my home community. Koke'e is my absolute very favorite place in the world. I have spent so much time up there, as a child, throughout my life, and now as a mother bringing my children to my favorite place multiple times a year. I was so excited a few years ago to hear about the auction that took place this past April. I knew this was my chance to get a cabin and be able to spend even more time in the place I love the most. I carefully put together a hui of friends that I knew were trustworthy, and had good skills to make the potential of reviving a dilapidated cabin into a life long dream come true. I was prepared to do whatever it took to take one of these cabins and turn it into a home away from home. Everything and anything, aside from the one thing that would make it impossible...paying way more than I or anyone I know could afford. The day of the auction came and I was so excited. The first cabin bidding rolled around and within seconds my heart was broken and my dreams shattered. After that first cabin went, I knew they all would be the same. I was in absolute shock and disbelief of the kind of money and people who were there to win most of the bids.

The auction system for the Koke'e cabin leases need to be restructured so this NEVER happens again. The cabins should be in the hands of long term local Kaua'i families, not people who just moved here with loaded pockets. If there is a lottery at least local families will have an equal chance to get a cabin.

I see now that it is equally important to keep the cabins in the hands of the lessees who have been good stewards, although it makes my personal chance lower to get a cabin. Most of the cabins are in the hands of local families and this is how it should be.

Mahalo for considering this bill and I strongly urge you to support HB1348.

Mahalo piha,



Lea Weldon

Neil Brosnahan
2670 Keoki Place
Kalaheo, Hawaii 96741

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

As a resident of Kauai it is important to me that public lands on our island be accessible to our local island residents. The last auction of the available lease properties in Koke'e resulted in lease rates far in excess of the values of the properties. This made leases beyond the ability of almost all local residents of Kauai and Ni'ihau to participate.

I sincerely request that you support HB1348 to address this inequity to implement a lottery system that makes the leasing process more fair and equitable to the residents of Kauai and Ni'ihau.

Mahalo for your support,

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:43:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1348 which ammends HRS171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire and maintain leases for the recreactional residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

Elizabeth A Kibble

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 1:49:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert brower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly support this Bill

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:18:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1348 and its companion bill SB1517, which provide necessary reforms to the leasing process for recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. This legislation is crucial in ensuring that these historic resources remain accessible to local residents while also fostering responsible stewardship of these properties.

One of the key provisions of this bill is the replacement of the current auction system with a lottery for vacant cabin leases. The 2024 auction process demonstrated that an auction disproportionately benefits those with financial means, pricing out the vast majority of Kauai's local residents. Cabins in severe disrepair saw annual lease rents reach unaffordable levels, making it nearly impossible for multigenerational local families to access these residences. A lottery system will create a fair and equitable means for local residents to obtain leases.

Additionally, I strongly support the requirement that only residents of the county where the recreational cabins are located be eligible to participate in the lease lottery. The intent of these cabins has always been to serve the residents of Kauai and Niihau, and opening the lottery to residents of other counties with larger populations would dilute opportunities for Kauai's local families.

HB1348 also encourages private investment in the maintenance and restoration of these historic cabins by ensuring that lease renewals do not factor in lessee-funded improvements when determining fair market lease rates. This provision provides a much-needed incentive for lessees to continue investing in the upkeep of these state-owned properties.

Further, this legislation promotes responsible stewardship by allowing leaseholders in "good standing" to renew their leases through direct negotiation for an additional term of up to twenty years. This approach mirrors the successful U.S. Forest Service model and ensures that lessees remain committed to maintaining the integrity of the land and cabins. Given the State's limited resources for enforcing lease terms, this renewal incentive is a strong motivator for compliance.

Finally, I support the proposed one-time \$1,200 fee for lease transfers. This fee is a reasonable measure to help cover administrative costs incurred by State Parks staff during the lease transfer process.

HB1348 / SB1517 represent a significant step forward in ensuring that Kauai's recreational residence program remains both fair and sustainable. I urge you to support this bill to protect local access, preserve historic cabins, and foster responsible stewardship of these cherished lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Phillips
379 Kaholalele rd
Kapaa HI 96746
808-652-1196

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:21:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Beck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

FROM: Nick Beck

PO Box 91, Hanalei Kauai 96714

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamasao and members of the Committee on Water and Land.

I am writing to strongly request your support of HB 1348.

I am a life time resident of Kauai born in Koloa, Kauai. I am a retired educator and have served as a teacher, vice principal, and retired as principal of Hanalei School. I also taught at the Kauai Community College and conducted educational programs for the University of Hawaii here on Kauai.

I believe that this Bill (HB 1348) will make it more fair and equitable for our community to acquire leases and for current leaseholders in good standing to maintain their current leases.

I feel that it is important for you to understand the many contributions that current leaseholders make to enhance our State Parks through trails and grounds maintenance, trail signage, road maintenance and very often providing assistance for lost or injured hikers.

The terms of this HB1348 are consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which was a model for our Hawaii system when it was set up in 1918.

I thank you for your attention and support of HB 1348.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Nick Beck

Hanalei Kaua'i

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne W English	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Anne W English

PO Box 389,

Lawai, HI 96765

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My name is Anne English and I live on Kauai. I have lived here 37 years and the Kauai community is very important to me. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this! I ask you to please pass this measure.

Thank you very much and again, I urge you to support HB1348.

Aloha,

Anne W. English

PO Box 389

Lawai, HI 96765

2. February 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water & Land
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

BY EMAIL ONLY

MEETING IN HONOLULU on February 4, 2025

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

Aloha,

I have been a resident of the island of Kauai for more than fifty years, and a leaseholder at Kōke'e for many. I have served as an avid volunteer with State Parks at Kōke'e on numerous projects to help renovate the public infrastructure – the pavilions, picnic areas and the Museum. This effort included a substantial Grant in Aid from the 2007 Legislature for the historic 1935 Civilian Conservation Corps Camp.

This bill authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in that lottery to residents of the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way forward.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 2:40:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Finberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Paatricia Finberg

4922 Nanehai Place, Kapaa, HI 96746

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

TO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Repersentative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem anb Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am in strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make a fair and equitable process for our community to aquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee adn Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

HB1348 incentivizes lessees to remain in good standing and truly abide by the terms of their lease and be good stewards of the property as it allows for lessees in “good standing” to be able to renew their lease when the lease comes to an end.

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

The State currently has little ability to enforce the terms of the recreational residence leases due to limited staffing but 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.

Only people who are residents of the same County where the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in the lottery for a cabin lease.

This is super important for the people of Kauai County as they will be drowned out by a wave of lottery applicants from other counties with much high population numbers.

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

Thank you very much. I urge you to please support HB1348,

Mahalo,

Patricia Finberg,

Kauai resident for 53 years

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:28:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has been part of an informal hui with four other families sharing a Kokee cabin since 2008. There are an additional 20 or so families we informally share the cabin with throughout the year. Everyone puts in sweat equity - contributing labor and skills to make sure the cabin is well maintained. We have made many structural improvements to the cabin and keep the yard thriving without the use of pesticides. We sincerely appreciate this legislation that will give a guarantee of sorts for our investment in the cabin which we hope to continue to share with family and friends and community for years to come. We strongly support the bill in its entirety.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 3:56:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert B. White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Robert B White

P.O. Box 10

Koloa, Hi 96756

As a long-term resident whose parents lived on Kauai in the early 1960s, I know that Kokee has been primarily a recreational area for Hawaii residents. This bill is significant because it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to lease recreational residences by public lottery and restricts the use of residents who live in the county. Kauai has limited areas with local resources that the community can enjoy as a family. Kokee is Kauai's premier "stay" vacation area.

Thank you for supporting HB1238 as drafted.

Robert B White

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:15:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

please support this measure to continue to improve the Kokee cabin and support the island of Kauai population. the last bidding program was a disaster

Robert Conrad MD

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:22:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Tony and Lorraine Wichman P O. Box 929 Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756 (808) 651-7866

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I would like to write in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Let me begin by saying that the 2024 Koke'e cabin auction dashed hopes of many residents who genuinely love Koke'e, of ever having a chance to get a cabin lease because of the high bids. A lottery would give hope to acquire a cabin knowing they will need to spend lots of money to make necessary improvements. Families work two jobs to make it here, Koke'e is their dream to spend quality family time.

Please don't open the lottery to neighbor islands. Many cabins date back 80 – 100 years and have remained in the same families. Those leaseholders are known to many islanders for sharing their cabin use, so many of us watch out for their cabin and the forest. The majority of Kauaians commit to being stewards of the land because we live here, we are the eyes and ears for DLNR. We hunt, donate and volunteer with organizations that also care for Koke'e like Koke'e

Resource Conservation Program, Kokua Koke'e, Forest Bird Recovery, Nature Conservatory, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and more. It's our home we will take care.

In closing please keep the appraisals for the lease reasonable so they could continue caring and upkeep of their cabins and also if they are in good standing please allow them to negotiate directly with the state to renew the leases. The one-time fee to transfer leases is reasonable.

Thank you so much for allowing me to give a written testimony in support of HB 1348 and I hope you'll support it with me for a positive step forward for history and preservation.

Gratefully,

Tony and Lorraine Wichman

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:35:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Michelle Rose_____ and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:14:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan strickland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"My name is SUSAN TOSHIE STRICKLAND and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county of Kaua'i in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

Mahalo nui loa,

Susan T. Strickland

Regostered Voter

Counyt of Kaua'i

Māhie Beck
3049 Kaohe Rd.
Kilauea, HI 96754
February 2, 2025

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

Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land, my name is Māhie Beck, my family is from the Moku of Halele‘a on the island of Kaua‘i, and I live in Kalihiwai. I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to 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 April 2024 auction for vacant recreational residence cabins made it clear that the auction system is not viable for the people of Kaua‘i. The bidding process drove lease prices to unsustainable levels, which multigenerational families like my own absolutely cannot sustain. This effectively includes 99% of local residents who cannot compete with high-income bidders who have no familial ties to our community. We've been watching this happen all over our island but I never thought that we would lose our access to Koke‘e cabins due to this as well. A lottery system is the only equitable solution, ensuring that Kaua‘i residents have a true opportunity to obtain a lease. HB1348 appropriately limits eligibility for the lottery to residents of the county where the recreational residences are located. This is crucial for the people of Kaua‘i, as allowing applicants from other counties would drastically reduce the chances for local residents to secure leases. The recreational residence program in Kōke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was originally established as a resource for the people of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau, and it should remain that way. Many of the Koke‘e cabins are in need of repairs, and current lessees like my family have taken on the responsibility of restoring and maintaining them with their own funds. HB1348 ensures that these personal investments are not unfairly counted against them when determining lease renewal costs. Under this bill, lessees in “good standing” would have the opportunity to negotiate lease renewals for up to 20 years. This is modeled after the U.S. Forest Service system and ensures that those who have responsibly maintained their cabins and abided by their lease terms are given the chance to continue their stewardship. This gives incentive to lessees to comply with requirements, which in turn supports DLNR staff, who already have demanding workloads.

I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill as written, ensuring that the cabins remain a resource for the people of Kauaʻi, as originally intended.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Māhie Beck

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 5:31:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Patricia Moana Kapuni Huff

3427 Nalohia place

Kalaheo Hi 96741

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Thank you for your attention for my support for HB1348.

Mahalo

Patti Moana Huff

James Mayfield

February 4, 2025

Lihue, Kauai (with a cabin in Kokee)

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My reasons are as follows:

- 1) It seems to me that residents of Kauai should have preference over people who live "off-island". It is my belief that "local" people will provide better care for their lands and homes in Kokee. And while I cannot prove anything, I certainly believe that "local" lessees frequently share their cabins with other Kauai residents. I certainly know that my partners and I do.
- 2) It is unreasonable to add-on to the value of a home/property improvements made by the current lessee when computing the value of the property. In my case, a very large and heavy tree had fallen on a portion of "my" cabin prior to the maturity of the prior lease. Upon my/our becoming the lessee, my "partners" and I spent about 6 months of weekend work to repair the cabin; and we got it done. And by almost anyone's standards, we maintain and continue to further improve our property.
- 3) It seems to me that people who are in "good standing" and take care of their yards/cabins... should have some kind of preference over those who do not. Being able to negotiate directly with DLNR seems to be a very reasonable way for the State of Hawaii to incentivize current lessees to maintain their property.
- 4) While this may not carry much weight with your committee, you should know that the use of the cabin is one important reason why my daughter has chosen to move back to Kauai from her high-paying research job in the Bay area. While she loves all of Kauai, she probably loves her/our cabin more than any other place excepting the home she grew up in. Keeping our children from leaving or incentivizing them to move back home should be important to your committee.
- 5) Lastly, I understand that DLNR needs money to cover the cost of handling the renewal/transfer of leases. I would certainly have no problem paying a fee to compensate them for their time and effort.

Sincerely,
Jim Mayfield

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:06:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Frye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Malia Frye

PO Box 358

Kilauea, HI 96754

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauaʻi.

I was born and raised on Kaua'i and some of the fond memories of my childhood include trips up to Koke'e with my 'ohana. We never owned a cabin but would use various cabins leased by friends over the years. I'm pretty sure I celebrated a couple of birthdays in Koke'e; hiking Fuji Grove and Alaka'i Swamp, checking out the museum, hanging at the Lodge and playing games in the field were all an integral part of growing up on Kaua'i. As anyone knows who has spent time in Koke'e, it is a very special place. As an adult, my husband and I have discussed in length creating a hui with some friends and obtaining a lease for a cabin in Koke'e. We would love to be able to bring our keiki up there on a regular basis, a place they already know and love, and continue to show the future generations this important place that we all gather to care for and protect.

We were very close to entering the lottery last year, but were hesitant that we had the finances to do so. When the auction closed and word got around about how much the cabin leases were obtained for we were heartbroken. We didn't see a way we could ever participate in this auction as it was and felt the dream of having a cabin in Koke'e to bring our keiki to and pass on the experiences, the love of the place and the special cultural significance of Koke'e was lost to us forever unless something changed.

The current practice of an auction ensures that those with the deepest pockets, not the deepest connections to the place will be the ones to hold these treasured leases. This should not be and was never the intended result. Things have changed in Hawai'i and thus we must change to protect what is dear to us.

Please consider this measure for a more fair and balanced way to allocate leases to Koke'e cabins. My/our desire is to perpetuate a Kaua'i that not only allows local and generational families to participate in processes related to enjoying and nurturing connection to this place, but to also feel prioritized as participants over the many dollars that have been finding their way to our home.

Mahalo nui for your consideration, and I ask you to support this bill in support of the local families on Kaua'i.

Respectfully,

Malia Frye

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:08:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Doug Alexander

5965 Kini Pl

Kapaa, HI 96746

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachel Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

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

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

I point to the fairly recent public auction in April, 2024 of Leases for seven neglected cabins in Koke'e. The short of it is, the results of that event sent shock through the population of current Koke'e leaseholders, who interpreted the winning bids as establishing the new market for cabins Park-wide ... not only for leaseholders in the renewal process, but for the population of Kauai and Niihau at large in future public lotteries. Our fear was that the State let one of its valued resources go the way of the O'o bird: the enriched experience of Koke'e State Park as a recreational resident, as opposed to a one-day tourist. Kauai County residents, optionally joined in hui by other Hawai'i residents, should feel they have a realistic chance of affording that experience at some point in their lives. The market for Koke'e cabin leases must be established with that in mind

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

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

Representatives Hashem and Lamosao, I trust in your abilities to see this through with objectivity and fairness, recognizing that Bills HB 1348 and SB 1517 are in the best interests of Kauai County with regards to how recreational-residential use of Koke'e State Park lands should be managed.

mahalos for your time,

Doug Alexander

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:23:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

"My name is Ms. Billi Smith and I am a resident of Kaua'i. This bill is very important ased it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resource (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by **public lottery** and restrict participation in the public lottery to **only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located**. This is the. most fair and equitable way to dio this!!! Please pass this measure."

Ms. Billi M. Smith

P.O. Box 815, Koloa, HI. 96756

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:41:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Jane Koehne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

Sincerely,

A lifetime resident of Kaua'i

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 6:52:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer acoba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Acoba and I live on Kauai in Kalaheo. My family and I love this island. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:00:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savitri Kumaran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kauai. Past processes for acquiring leases have been completely unfair to the residents on Kauai and especially to past leaseholders. By opening the "auction" up to non residents and residents from other islands, the prices have been driven up and made the leases unaffordable to residents of Kauai and Niihau.

I strongly urge the passing of HB1348

Sincerely,

Savitri Kumaran 5854 Hauiki Road Kapaa, HI 96746 808 639 7618

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:03:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Kuwamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kay Kuwamura

5450 Olopuu St

Kapaa, HI 96746

February 3, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I am requesting that future cabins will go to the public at appraised value via a lottery where only Kauai & Niihau residents could enter the lottery. Also, lessees in good standing can renew their leases for an additional period up to 20 years. Additionally, lease rents will be based on the value of the land only and not based on any improvements made by lessees.

Thank you for supporting HB1348.

Aloha,

Kay Kuwamura

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:06:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Gushman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Erin Gushman and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Erin Gushman & 'Ohana

2/2/25

Haylin Chock
Lihue Kaua'i
HB1348

February 4, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

As i'm sure you are aware, Hawai'i locals and native Hawaiians are being placed out of our homelands. Beyond just trying to survive here, now we are faced with the threat of being priced out of Kōke'e. Our mountains are one of the last places locals can go to try an escape from encroaching gentrification. Memories of camping trips and connecting to 'āina are core for many Kaua'i locals. By supporting this bill you will be helping all of us hold on to our way of life and ensure access for the generational local and hawaiian community to have access to these spaces. Kōke'e is a place where we gather plants, gather food and connect with our ohana.

I Strongly urge you to support this bill to show the public that you care about the future Koke'e, our community and our ecosystem more than what the highest bidder can offer.

Mahalo nui,

Haylin Chock

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:17:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ford potter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ford Potter

Niumalu, Kauai

February 4th, 2025

Support of HB 1348

We can all see the writing on the wall. Without change, every lease in Koke'e will go to the wealthiest people interested. Right now there are still cabins leased as they all have been in the past; by multiple local family leading to use from many more. Most of the Cabins Ive been to in my life were parts of the childhoods and lives of dozens even hundreds, in some cases, of people in our community. People who take part in truly making this place our home. If these leases keep going to the highest bidders we will lose yet another integral aspect of who we are. Our children won't be able to live the way we have. Another wave of gates will be locked to a generation.

I support Bill HB1348

Ford Potter

Born and Raised Lawai

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 7:18:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Brines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Emily Brines

Kapa'a, Kaua'i

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The 2024 auctions drove prices of cabins up to a level that is not feasible for most local residents to be able to afford. Having a lottery would allow local residents to have an opportunity to get a cabin lease in Koke'e without the unfair process of an auction which would naturally drive up the prices. Furthermore, by ensuring that only people who are the residents of this county can be a part of a cabin lottery, it removes the challenge of competing against the huge number of

potential non-resident applicants and ensures that Kaua'i residents have a fair chance. Finally, being able to renew your lease if you are in good standing gives lessees incentive to abide by the rules and also to perform maintenance and improvements on the properties.

Thank you for your consideration and please support bill HB1348! It is important to make the cabin leasing process more equitable to local families, and provide them with opportunities to have access to recreational residence in Koke'e. Please don't let local resources be unreachable to local families.

Thank you,

Emily Brines

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:00:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Hiramoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Maureen Hiramoto and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:02:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Palo Lockett and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1348 on behalf of myself and the Cavasso family. Joel Cavasso is a "lessee in good standing" and I am married to his daughter. We are longtime residents of Kauai and have helped to care for the Cavasso family cabin for several decades.

I offer the amended Section 171-44 (d) for consideration:

"The board may limit participation in the public lottery of recreation-residence use leases to residents in the same county in which the land to be leased is located; provided that limiting participation in the public lottery to residents of the county; ensure premises leases will be properly maintained the lessee through their own care and efforts with limited reliance on paid outside vendors;"

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:09:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesah Gail Merritt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/3/2024**Lesah G. Merritt**

4168 Hili St.

Lihue, Hi 96766

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1348

Attention Committee on water and land:

My name is Lesah Gail Vierra Merritt. I am a born native Kauai resident and lover of our Aina. Koke'e is very important to me and my family for we were raised up mauka and raised our children and grandchildren to enjoy the beauty and the flora and fauna that the mountain flourishes. My father was a hunter who taught us to be sustainable by also raising fruits and vegetables on our leased State land. The first auction back in the 70's allowed us to maintain our lease and keep the house that my uncles built within our growing families. My family raised flowers that could only be grown in cool climate and was able to share with others. Koke'e will always be a part of my life.

In 2019, I had the honor and privilege to represent queen emma at the annual E'o Emalani Festival. A dream of my Mom's that I was able to fulfill. The feeling of that magical day will remain in my heart forever. I was also privileged to represent the queen again virtually during the pandemic. I was able to share the journey with family, friends and children carrying on our traditions by visiting areas that she shared like Pohaku Halau and Kilohana Vista via Alakai Swamp.

Learning to make lei po'o and hunting for maile and mokihana for special occasions were times we always looked forward to. Today, I have the honor and kuleana of a Hui that shares the expenses of mountain recreation living which I am so grateful. Our Hui's malama for the mountain and it's glory hopefully will continue for another lifetime.

I am an active board member of the Koke'e Leaseholders Association and I humbly ask you to pass HB 1348 to protect this unique and historical aspect of Kauai's heritage and keep it within Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Ohana.

Mahalo nui ka kou,

Lesah G. Vierra Merritt

Store Director Safeway Lihue

808-651-8875

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:21:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalilah Osakoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is in support of hb1348.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:23:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenni Batalucco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jenni Batalucco and I live on the south shore of Kauai. I am in support of HB 1348 without any amendments. This bill restricts participation in the public lottery to only residents that live within the county in which the leased land is located.

This bill is especially important to me as I have grown up spending time in Kokee, in a home that my family has leased for many many years. This place is such a special place to generations of my family. My grandparents, parents, myself and now my own children. This land needs to be kept with the people who love it most.

Please support this measure and pass HB 1348.

February 2, 2025
JoAnne Kaona
PO BOX 1289 Hanalei HI 96714

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land, my name is JoAnne Kaona and I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I was born and raised here on Kaua'i. I am a fourth generation native Hawaiian wahine kalo farmer and also work at Waipa Foundation. At Waipa I get to work with keiki from our community and one of my favorite activities is bringing them up to Koke'e. We have worked with DOWFA doing trail maintenance and other malama 'aina projects, but the greatest value is disconnecting the keiki from the technology of today, and creating pilina and a real connection to Koke'e. I remember one keiki saying, "I can't wait to come hike here with my parents and show them all of the work that we did." My hope is to share these beautiful places all around our island with the keiki and inspire them to be the next generation of Aloha 'aina warriors.

Koke'e is a beautiful and special place and it was devastating to be a part of the auction last spring. I was part of a hui with four other local families hoping to lease a Koke'e cabin, but when the auction began it was clear that our budget was nowhere close to where it needed to be. I looked around the room and everyone was outraged and by the end I would describe it as disbelief and sadness, realizing I and many other local Hawaiian families would never be able to afford leasing a cabin. That is why I support this bill HB 1348 to change the process from a ridiculous auction where only the wealthy will be able to lease cabins, to a more fair lottery process giving us locals a chance at a cabin lease.

Mahalo for your time, and again please support HB1348.

JoAnne Kaona
PO Box 1289
Hanalei HI 96714

jilkaona@gmail.com

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:31:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KRISTAL MUHICH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kristal Muhich

2955 Aukele Street #201, Lihue Hawaii 96766

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

First, we believe that a lottery system is the fairest option for the residents of the county of Kauai. Keeping the area available for only residents of Kauai is key to maintain ties within our community. Most importantly tho, it is crucial for cabin lease holders to renew their leases if they are proven good stewards of the aina. This insures that the lease holders continue to invest in the properties and keep the area maintained for future generations.

Thank you so much for taking the time in reading this. We ask for your support in passing the bill HB 1348

Kristal Muhich

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:39:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Batalucco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Greg Batalucco and I live in Koloa on the island of Kauai. The bill HB1348 is very important to our family and community members living on Kauai as it authorizes BLNR to only lease the cabins to residents that live in the county where the leased land is located through public lottery. Please pass this bill as is with no amendments. This is the fairest option to do it and allows these land lease properties to stay with those residents of Kauai. Thank you for your support and listening to my testimony.

Greg Batalucco - Koloa, HI

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:42:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keira McCoy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keira McCoy

**PO Box 411395 Kalaheo HI 96741
4581 Kehau Dr. Kalaheo HI 96741**

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The cabin my family and I have been fortunate to have, has been in my family for over 40 years. Longer than I have been alive. I have spent many weekends and celebrated many milestones with my family and friends at our little slice of heaven in the clouds. My family, along with another partner have created a hui in order to preserve and maintain the authenticity of the cabin. We have not only paid our lease every year, but spent our hard earned money and time to ensure the cabin is safe and maintained. Thousands of hours over the years ensuring that we are able to enjoy the space. Like others who hold leases on cabins, we are able to have our friends stay and create memories of their own. I have always called Kokee The Happiest Place on Earth, you truly don't know how magical the memories are that you make up there unless you've gotten to experience it for yourself. It

breaks my heart knowing my children aren't going to have the same opportunities as I have had all these years.

The mishandling of the last action was absurd, thinking that families who are already struggling to find/keep housing are going to be able to afford on the upwards of 25 thousand dollars for a yearly lease is unimaginable and unattainable. If families are willing to continue to put in the effort to maintain their cabins, why take the lease away?

Allowing those who abide by state rules and regulations to keep their leases would ensure that the cabins are properly cared for and maintained for generations to come.

I urge you to support HB1348. Thank you for your time.

**Keira McCoy
808-346-0897
keiramac@gmail.com**

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:44:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dylan scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2025

Dylan Scott

4-1104 Kuhio Hwy. #146 Kapaa HI 96766

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I support the lottery system to allow for local resident a chance to obtain these cabins in Kokee it is the only fair system for the residents of Kauai. The lessees of the cabins put so much hard work and love into maintaining these properties, so allowing them to renew their leases as long as they are in good standings is crucial to ensuring these properties are taking care of for generations.

Thank you so much and hope you support this bill HB1348

Dylan Scott

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:46:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Buza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brandon Buza and I live on Kauai, born and raised. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

Brandon Buza- PO Box 1491 Lihue, Hi. 96766

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:53:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 2, 2025

Patricia Cruz

Puna, Hawaii Island

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

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

On February 4, 2025

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to have the process work in a fair manner and proper process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I am hopeful we can change this process to a lottery versus an auction because this current process has affected my family a couple of times already and caused our family to lose our home up at Kokee State Park. I was born on Kauai and feel so honored to have experienced the beauty and joy this magical place has and the healing quality it gives me every time I'm able to visit. My grandparents and parents both had homes there when I was born and at the end of their lease our home was auctioned off to someone from the mainland that I feel had no interest or respect in preserving Kokee's beauty and culture; they immediately tore down our house and built a house that did not belong. Our family

was not able to out bid what they could afford; very very sad. If we're able to move to this new lottery it may help support the current home owners the opportunity to keep it in their families for generations to come,

If lotteries are approved and we give the community of Kauai the first opportunity to acquire the leases of those that are not interested or able to or because the current lease is not in good standing; I strongly feel this is the fairest process. Opening it to Hawaii residents after and then to outsiders provides fairness.

My sister's husband's family currently still has an amazing home up at Kokee and I am thankful for any opportunity and honor i have to be invited there; as I mentioned, it is a healing place for me and hold it dear to my heart.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciate you giving us the opportunity to share our support of HB1348.

Mahalo,

Patricia Cruz.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:57:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
bill schilling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 3, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.**Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery****TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Kokee State Park with its trails and cabins is a majestic place. In the summer of 2022 I personally restored and refurbished a 1938 cabin. The work was hard but I appreciated every moment doing the floors, windows, painting. I didn't have to do all that work, but I did it because I wanted that cabin to last for others to use not just myself.

In summary I support HB 1348 which amends Hrs 171-44. Kokee cabin use should prioritize Kauai resident use. Kauai residents are proud people and because of the proximity they are best able to maintain the cabins. I fully realize that many of the cabins have been in the same family for many years. Many of these families have budget restrictions and even if they had been interested in last years cabin sale, because of the prohibitive bidding, they were unable to pursue one. As an observation I would additionally like to point out that if current leaseholders fear that

the cost of leases are going to increase they will be very reluctant to attend to current or future maintenance issues.

As an avid hiker and cabin restorer, I wholeheartedly support this legislation and thank you for what is right for Kauai.

Bill Schilling

Princeville, Kauai,

Chair, Rotary Kupuna Place

307-262-5990

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:02:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Fontana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

I am writing to you all in unequivocal support of Bill HB 1348 regarding Kokee leases. I have been a leasee 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 abbreviated time we have 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.

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.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:05:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Schumacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Erik Schumacher MD

4511 Maalo Rd

Lihue, HI 96766

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to firmly support HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more just process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The recent auction demonstrated outsized demand for Koke'e cabins which resulted in a system that skewed heavily in favor of a small minority of the community with disproportionate financial resources, pricing out a large majority of residents with keen interest and multi-generational ties to Kauai. Amending this process to a lottery system seems a much more equitable way to level the process and blunt financial favoritism.

Importantly, HB1348 also provides substantial incentive for current lessees to maintain the cabins in a favorable state and to abide by regulations so as to maintain their "good standing" to allow for lease renewal. The importance of this was also shown in the recent auction, in which numerous historic cabins were abandoned in dilapidated condition, taking charming bits of history with them.

Thank you for helping to make cabin lease access more equitable and incentivizing preservation of historic Koke'e cabins by supporting HB1348.

Mahalo nui loa,

Erik Schumacher MD

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:11:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Decker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having been invited many times to friend's family cabins in Koke'e, it is disheartening to see these traditions being disrupted and access taken away. I believe extending the lease at an affordable price to locals for these cabins perpetuates a sense of pride and appreciation to the families who have put so much of their time, money and sweat equity into their "leased" properties. These cabins provide a safe haven from the egregious development, greed and disrespect that locals face on the daily. It is sad how these sacred family sanctuaries have been exposed in recent years. Something worth having is worth fighting for and with that being said I am in support of HB1348

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:13:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of our extended 'ohana, I am testifying in support of HB1348/SB1517.

We agree that DLNR should have the ability to make vacant cabins available via *lottery*, not auction;

We agree that only residents of Kaua'i County would be able to participate;

We agree that maintenance by lessees must be incentivized, so that properties do not fall into disrepair when the cost of a new roof, total rewiring/plumbing, septic systems, or other crucial projects is prohibitive; and,

We agree with 'direct negotiation' for families that abide by lease terms (eg. never renting out) and are good-faith stewards of cabins and mauka lands.

Mahalo for your consideration of these improvements to the management of our historic Koke'e cabins and mountain community.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:13:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James L. Cassel Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is James L. Cassel Jr. and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

Thank you so much for your attention to this testimony in favor of this bill!

James L. Cassel Jr.

6042J Menehune Road

P.O. Box 36

Waimea, HI 96796

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:18:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Russell McCluskey II, and I reside on Kauai. I am writing to express my strong support for HB1348, which is a crucial bill that would empower the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins through a public lottery. Importantly, the bill would limit participation in the lottery to residents of the specific county where the leased land is located. I believe this approach is the fairest and most equitable way to manage these leases. Please pass this important measure. Thank you!

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:20:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselani Kahooalahala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1348 Kōke‘e cabins should only be leased/sold to Kaua'i residents.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:27:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deena Fontana Moraes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to communicate my unreserved support for proposed HB 1348.

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 beyond the shortened time we were awarded. 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.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Deena Moraes

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:35:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

"My name is Susan Stayton and I strongly support this bill. I have lived on Kauai for 37 years. In that time, I have come to know and love the special place that is Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. It is a source of renewal and inspiration for many locals and visitors. I was fortunate enough to get a cabin lease early on and feel very blessed. We allow friends and family to use our cabin to share the aloha. It is an honor to be part of the historic cabin community.

It has been heartbreaking to see many cabins abandoned and trashed over the years. The current means of finding new lessees does not respect the local community and favors the wealthy. This was not the original intent of the leases.

This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please support this measure."

Mahalo for your consideration,

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

808-651-9070

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:40:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Rovinsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB1348, which prioritizes local residents in the lottery system for recreational-residential leases on public lands such as Kōkeʻe. These lands hold deep cultural and historical significance for the community, and it is essential that access remains within the hands of those who live, work, and contribute to the county. By restricting participation in the lottery to county residents, this bill ensures that these lands remain accessible to local families and preserving the integrity of Kōkeʻe for generations to come.

A lottery system is the only fair way for local residents to have a chance at obtaining a lease for a recreational residence in Koke`e. The recreational residence program in Kōkeʻe and Waimea Canyon State Parks was established 100 years ago as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau, and it should remain that way.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sasha Rovinsky

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:55:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keahi Diaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, HB1348. I do not support the capitalism and sale of Hawaiian lands to foreign property investors who have no intention of being a part of the community.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:55:47 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Waipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Waipa and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1348. I believe that leases for the State-owned cabins in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon should be offered via lottery to community residents of Kaua'i. Leasees in good standing should also be able to renew their lease. These two factors provides a more fair and equitable opportunity for local Kaua'i residents to qualify, enjoy, and provide opportunities for family and friends to learn and be inspired by and within our foundational forests through lease opportunities for these cabins. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:58:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linea Harding	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Linea Harding
4538 Piko Road
Lawai, HI 96765

February 4, 2025

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348, which creates a fairer and more equitable process for local residents to obtain leases for recreational residence cabins in Kōkeʻe and Waimea Canyon State Parks.

As a born and raised Kauaʻi resident, I have always dreamed of having a cabin in Kōkeʻe after spending time at friends' cabins and the Waineke Church cabins growing up. This past year, I was finally in a position to participate in the auction process with a group of family and friends, and we were hopeful that we could secure a lease. Instead, we were devastated to see prices skyrocket beyond what working families like ours could afford.

HB 1348 would fix this by allowing DLNR to hold a lottery instead of an auction for vacant cabins. The 2024 auction showed that the current process is unfair and makes these cabins unattainable for most local residents. A lottery would give Kauaʻi residents a fair chance at obtaining a lease rather than pricing them out.

Additionally, I strongly support limiting lottery participation to Kauaʻi County residents. The recent auction demonstrated the high demand for these cabins, much of it from mainland buyers, outer-island residents, and part-time residents. Full-time Kauaʻi residents are best positioned to serve as responsible stewards, ensuring these cabins are preserved and valued for future generations. These recreational residences were originally established as a resource for the people of Kauaʻi and Niʻihau, and they should remain accessible to them, first and foremost.

Finally, allowing lessees in good standing to renew their lease ensures that those who have been responsible stewards of these historic cabins can continue caring for them and sharing the experience across generations.

I urge you to support HB 1348 to ensure that Kōke'e's recreational cabins remain accessible to local families. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Linea Harding

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:00:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

David K. Sproat P.O. Box 99, Kilauea, HI 96754

February 2, 2025 TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND The Honorable Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair The Honorable Rep. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair For hearing on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 9:00AM , via videoconference/Room 411 Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS. Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members, I am writing to request your strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to create a more equitable process for our community to acquire and keep leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. I and my family have held the lease to our cabin in Koke'e since the 1986 auction. It has been such a valuable part of our family allowing us to connect with our Hawaiian culture through having access to the forest. We have been good stewards of this property and the forest across our almost 40 years as lessees. Although we had to purchase our cabins from the previous owner, the State now owns them, and so we have no incentive to do repairs and maintenance to the cabins. HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest our own money to care for and improve these historic properties. Also, the auction through which we got this cabin was a horrible experience, and today's auctions are many times worse. With the influx of super wealthy newcomers to our community, local people will never be able to get or keep a cabin if the auctions continue. A lottery is a more equitable way to give more local residents a chance to someday have a cabin of their own. We hope to be able to continue to mālama our cabin and the surrounding `āina, and provide the opportunity for many other local `ohana to access the forest for subsistence and cultural practice. Please support HB1348. It provides us the opportunity to extend our lease if we remain in good standing.

With appreciation, David K. Sproat

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:23:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabra Kauka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sabra Kauka and I live in Lihue, Kaua'i. I am writing in support of HB 1348 and ask that only residents of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau be allowed to hold a lease to the cabins in Koke'e.

The super high lease rents that were generated in the last auction are scary. I'm a teacher and I share the cabin with friends and students. I take them there to learn about the forest - the native plants, birds, waterfalls, etc. And the mele, chants and hula that speak of Koke'e.

Please keep these cabins accessible to local people. Mahalo for your time and service to our Hawaii community.

Malama Pono,

Sabra Kauka

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:25:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Egesdal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Charles Egesdal

1439 Center St. Honolulu, HI 96816

February 2, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 in order to achieve a more fair and equitable process to acquire and extend leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My family has had a cabin up in Kokee for over a century. Lessees who have been good stewards of their cabins and the land, and who are in good standing, should be able to directly negotiate with the board to extend the lease for an additional term. 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.

There is no place on earth like Kokee. Please help us to keep it that way. It is a heaven on earth and we need to do all that we can to preserve it.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to support HB 1348.

Charlie Egesdal

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:25:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Sproat-Armitage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nanea Sproat-Armitage P.O. Box 83, Kilauea, HI 96754

February 2, 2025

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND The Honorable Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair The Honorable Rep. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair For hearing on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 9:00AM , via videoconference/Room 411 Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS. Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members, I am writing to request your strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to create a more equitable process for our community to acquire and keep leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My 'ohana has held the lease to our cabin in Koke'e since the 1986 auction. As long as I can remember we have been going to Koke'e spending time in the forest and learning about our culture and `āina. It has been such an important part of our family allowing us to connect with our Hawaiian culture and pass on our knowledge to the next generations. We have been good stewards of this property and the forest across our almost 40 years as lessees. Even though we had to purchase our cabins and invest lots of money into them, the State now owns them. HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest our own money to care for and improve these historic properties. Even though the way we accured our lease was through auction times have since changed and with the influx of super wealthy newcomers to our community, local people will never be able to get or keep a cabin if the auctions continue. Lottery is a fair way to give more local residents a chance to someday have a cabin of their own. We hope to be able to continue to care for our cabin and the surrounding `āina, and provide the opportunity for many other local `ohana to access the forest for subsistence and cultural practice. Please support HB1348. It provides us the opportunity for local `ohana to extend our leases if we remain in good standing.

Mahalo Nui,

Nanea Sproat-Armitage

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:36:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirstie Daly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kirstie Daly

P.O Box 925

Kilauea, HI 96754

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Keeping access to cabin leases should move to a lottery system to insure leases continue to create ways for community to access our precious mauka resources. Long time families that have leases create access for other ohana to join them and camp. They should have the ability to renew their lease at the end if they are in good standing. This will insure the continuity of intergenerational connections with place and practices of hunting and cultural gathering.

Mahalo honorable members for you time. I'm urging you again to support HB1348. Opportunities for future families of Kauai to have an fair system to access leases based on Lottery.

Mahalo,

Kirstie Daly

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:36:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Jenny Keomaka

P O. Box 1762 Aiea Hi 96701

(808) 6303169

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I'm writing to support HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The 2024 Koke'e cabin auction disappointed many residents who loved Koke'e, because of the high

bids. A lottery would give hope to get a cabin. Residents will need to spend lots of money to make improvements. Koke'e is

their dream to spend quality family time.

Please don't open the lottery to neighbor islands. Many Kauaians are committed to being stewards of the land because we live here. Many of the lease holder donate and volunteer with organizations that also care for Koke'e like

Koke'e Resource Conservation Program, Kokua Koke'e, Forest Bird Recovery, Nature Conservatory, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and more. It's our home we will take care.

Please keep the appraisals for the lease reasonable so they could continue caring and upkeep of their cabins and also if they are in good standing please allow them to negotiate directly with the state to renew the leases. The one-time fee to transfer leases is reasonable.

Thank you so much for allowing me to give a written testimony in support of HB 1348 and I hope

you'll support it with me.

Much Mahalo

Jenny Keomaka

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:44:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Dizon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1348

Aloha,

My name is Taryn Dizon, and I am from the town of Kekaha on west Kaua'i. I am writing to express my strong support for HB1348. Our island's forest is not only the number one visitor attraction but is home to endangered and critical habitat. It is essential to manage it effectively by partnering with knowledgeable and skilled Kaua'i residents.

Hawaii's high cost of living makes it challenging for many residents to afford the high auction costs for land leases. This bill would help preserve historical leases for local residents who have generational knowledge of the land and its environmental needs. It would also foster partnerships with leaseholders to maintain not only their leased land but also the broader forest area.

Kaua'i's unique character, with no buildings taller than a coconut tree, must be preserved. We request your assistance in providing access to our residents, as previous auctions have been prohibitively expensive. Additionally, I believe we need to strengthen the parameters to require voluntary hours and restrict business or corporate use of these lands to ensure genuine stewardship.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo, Taryn Dizon Kekaha, Kaua'i

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 10:46:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson T.K. Armitage Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nelson T.K. Armitage Jr.

P.O. Box 83, Kilauea, HI 96754

February 2, 2025

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND The Honorable Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair The Honorable Rep. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

For hearing on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 9:00AM , via videoconference/Room 411

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS. Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

I am writing to request your strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to create a more equitable process for our community to acquire and keep leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My wife's family has held the lease to their cabin in Koke'e since the 1986 auction. It has been such an important part of our family allowing us to connect with our Hawaiian culture through having access to the forest and now we can share that with our keiki. My wife's family has been good stewards of this property and the forest for almost 40 years as lessees. Having this cabin also allows other local families access to the forest to gather off of the land.

Please support HB1348. It provides us the opportunity to extend our lease if we remain in good standing. HB1348 also gives local families a better chance at obtaining a cabin through the lottery system.

Mahalo,

Nelson T.K. Armitage Jr.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:00:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mitchell Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mitchell Evans - 2/2/2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Mitchell Evans and I am writing to voice my support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair process for Kauai county residents to get leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kaua'i. The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system. Also, only residents from the same county as the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in said lottery. This is important because otherwise Kauai county residents could be drowned out by lottery applicants from other counties with higher population. The program was started by the Territorial government working with the County government 100 years ago as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau and it should remain that way. HB1348 also incentives lessees who have been in good standing with the terms of their lease and who have been good stewards to the land as it allows lessees in "good standing" to renew their lease when it expires. It also incentives lesees to invest their own time and money improving and caring for historic land by excluding the value of any improvements when calculating their fair market value for a lease when it is available for renewal. I urge you once more to voice your support for HB1348!

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Evans

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:01:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Goff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Cynthia Goff. I live in Kekaha on the Island of Kauai.

This bill this bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by-public lottery. and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county_in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

Mahalo,

Cynthis Goff

808-278-8488

8574 Kekaha Rd.

Kekaha, Kauai, HI 96752

Testimony from Gaylord Wilcox (primary residence in Honolulu) for House Committee on Water and Land hearing on 2/4/25, HB 1348.

I support HB 1348 proposing the State incorporate fair market values for lotteries and negotiation with its recreational residential leases. As a current leaseholder of such a residence in Kokee I am aware that recent methods of assigning leases have often not worked for the betterment of the people of Kauai, resulting in problematic lease assignments, such as pricing out many locals who would make good use of the properties.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:07:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Strickland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Date: February 2, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 Relating to Public Lands

TO:

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Kanani Strickland, and I am a lifelong resident of Kaua‘i. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 1348, which seeks to amend HRS 171-44 to make the process for acquiring recreational-residence leases in Koke‘e and Waimea Canyon State Parks more fair and equitable for the residents of Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau.

This bill is essential for preserving the historic recreational-residence program, which has served as a valuable resource for residents for over 100 years. The proposed amendments will ensure that these cabins remain accessible to the people who call Kaua‘i home and provide a sustainable framework to protect local access for future generations.

The hearing for HB 1348 is scheduled for February 4, 2025, before the Committee on Water and Land. I respectfully urge you to support this bill, which will provide a fairer, more accessible process for acquiring leases and protect the integrity of this important community resource.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kanani Strickland
Resident of Kaua‘i

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:36:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Cadavona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

#1. HB1348 give the DLNR the ability to hold a lottery for vacant recreational residence cabins rather than an auction.

#2. Only people who are residents of the same County where the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in the lottery for a cabin lease.

3. HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest their own money to care for and improve these historic properties that are owned by the State.

#4. HB1348 incentivizes lessees to remain in good standing and truly abide by the terms of their lease and be good stewards of the property as it allows for lessees in "good standing" to be able to renew their lease when the lease comes to an end.

5. We support the idea of a one-time fee of \$1,200 for any lease which is being transferred to a new lessee.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:11:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Fritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of HB 1348, changing the Kōke'e cabin auctions to a lottery.

A lot of people with love for Kōke'e cannot afford to be in a highest-bidder-battle. Many people on Kaua'i have time, skills, knowledge combined love and appreciation for the forest and deserve to have an opportunity to lease a cabin with good stewardship however we are losing the opportunity when all you need is money to win. These cabins should be available only to Kaua'i residents (not businesses) who can go regularly to enjoy and caretake. And there needs to be a fair way to offer the opportunity.

The 2024 auction process resulted in cabins that were totally dilapidated going for ridiculous annual prices. This is beyond the reach of multigenerational local residents with regular jobs and families - even if they form a hui to help cover the costs.

The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Kōke'e is via a lottery system for local Kaua'i residents only.

it is so sad to see so many cabins going unused and it is sad when only those with money can participate.

I remain hopeful that one day my 'ohana will be able to enjoy this opportunity. We go to Kōke'e regularly and have dreamed of this opportunity all our lives, and my parents have also, all of their lives.

Please make this change so the dream can stay alive and the reality will be fair. Mahalo

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:33:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support for a lottery system for Kauai residents.

Mahalo

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:31:28 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Parker-Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2025

Dear Chair Haslam, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Representative members of the Water and Land Committee: Au Belatti, Ichiyama, Iwamoto, Morikawa, Poepoe, Woodson, Shimizu, and Souza:

My name is Bevin Parker-Evans and I am writing in support of Bill HB1348 regarding public land leases on Kaua'i in Kokee. I am a resident of Kaua'i and I spend alot of time in Kokee with my Hula Halau members at a state cabin leased to our Non-profit educational and cultural organization known as Ka`Imi Na`auao O Hawai'i Nei Institute. I am also a member of the Hui O' Laka .Hui o Laka is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. It was formed in 1954 to operate the fledgling Kōke'e Natural History Museum. The vision of Hui o Laka is to connect people with the spirit of Kōke'e. The organization and its members illuminate, celebrate, and nurture the essence of Koke'e, engaging all in a spirit of appreciation and service.

Kokee is my happy place. The beauty of the forested mountains is a wonderful place to find serenity, peace, and happiness. Over the 50 years I have lived on Kaua'i I have been lucky enough to share many happy moments with friends and family in dozens of other state cabins leased by individuals that I know personally who live and work in our community.

Without this current bill # HB1348 to continue to protect our small community and keep the history and beauty of Kokee in the hands of our residents, we would begin to see strangers leasing these cabins who are not members of our community and who would not honor the culture and history of these cabins, most of which were built back in the 1930s.

This bill is very important to our residents as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please support our community with this measure.

It is important because:

- Future cabins will go to the public at appraised value via a lottery
- Only Kauai & Niihau residents can enter the lottery.

- Lessees in good standing can renew their leases for an additional period up to 20 years which is important because most of these persons who have leased these homes have spent countless dollars repairing and maintaining these cabins to keep them in great condition.
- Lease rent will be based on the value of the land only and not improvements we have made.

If we can get this bill passed and signed into law, this will be a huge achievement for the people of Kauai. All of us who live here enjoy spending time in this glorious and special place which is important to our history and culture. We hope you will protect us from strangers coming in with big amounts of money who do not care about our culture or our history and they easily might outbid our local families and not actually spend time at the cabins or maintain them in a proper way, especially since they most likely live off-island. Additionally these strangers would likely not share their cabins with our community because they do not know us and do not share our community feelings about Kokee.

As the Water and Land committee, we need you to protect us and keep Kokee available to those of us that treasure Kokee and spend countless hours protecting endangered species and plants, repairing state trails and other community work we do in Kokee etc...

Mahalo for your support,

Bevin Parker-Evans - Resident of Kaua'i 3721 Omao Road, Koloa, HI 96756

February 4, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in **strong support of HB 1348** which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i. As a Native Hawaiian, born and raised in Kapahi, Kaua'i, I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill as it plays an important role in protecting against locals' loss of land.

Within my lifetime of just 24 years, I have lived through opportunities for Hawaiians and locals to own real estate go from slim to none. As the statutes currently stand regarding the sale and lease holdings of recreational cabins, this issue is exacerbated and creates inequity in one of the most special places on Kaua'i. Changing the auction sale to a lottery for vacant cabins, and allowing only residents of the county to put in provides an equitable process for the local community. Words alone do not describe the heartbreak felt so deeply in our community when auctions are held on cabins, and prices are driven to an unimaginable price for even the most decrepit buildings, ultimately being sold to someone who will most likely leave it empty majority of the year. I am fortunate to have access to a cabin held in lease by a local Hawaiian family; I am one of many locals who are able to enjoy the cabin. Without this access, my 'ohana and I would not be able to engage in cultural practices such as lei making, gathering, and mo'olelo specific to Kōke'e.

This bill also addresses the inequitable terms for lessees by protecting their long-term access and use of cabins. This includes the renewal of leases for lessees in good standing and the exclusion of on-site improvements when determining fair-market value. These protections allow lessees to securely invest towards improvements of the cabins and increase the ability for leases to remain within families.

I strongly urge the support of HB1348 as it is one of many bills that will protect the future of Hawai'i by keeping infrastructure and land accessible to our local community for generations to come.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Faith Blalock

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:12:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atlee AustinTaylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Atlee Austin-Taylor & I live on Kaua'i was born & raised here. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:53:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Shigeta-Koch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From:

Anne Shigeta-Koch

2130 Pililani Place

Honolulu, HI 96822

February 3, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

As a long-time previous owner and now partner of a cabin at Kokee, I thank all for this bill and am writing to ask a vote to pass this bill.

This this is our best chance for only--

- Future cabins will go to the public at appraised value via a lottery
- Lessees in good standing can renew their leases for an additional period up to 20 years.
- Lease rent will be based on the value of the land only and not improvements we have made.

And it will allow ability to renew cabin leases if you are in good standing.

There is one point I do not agree with in this bill And ask for amendment and this is that only Kauai & Niihau residents can enter the lottery. All island residents should have an opportunity to participate.

Mahalo and please support HB1348.

Sincerely with aloha,

- Anne Shigeta-Koch

808-268-7143

Caitlin Stiglmeier
Koloa, Kaua'i

February 2, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. I see this as the best measure for the people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. We have already lost so much to foreigners and mainlanders. They have money, and that's it. No knowledge of the depth and breadth of the Hawai'ian people. No spiritual connection to places like Koke'e, no understanding of the names of the rain and fog and mist that envelope the mountains. They have money, but no past connection to our islands- they didn't grow up hearing native birdsong, learning about indigenous plants & animals that are now threatened because of over-tourism and everyone wanting a piece of this pie that is Hawai'i.

Koke'e is sacred. The people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau deserve to have these areas available to the generations of families that have helped create and keep the most special parts of Hawai'i - its people and its places. We don't need more mainlanders who are able to pay huge amounts of cash just to tread over kapu areas for their social media photos. We need more locals to 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 and keeps Hawai'i special.

I say all this even as a haole. As someone whose parents moved to Kaua'i before I was born. As someone who, from a young age, started to understand that *this place is different*, in the best way. That it is a privilege and an honor to have had the opportunity to grow up on a land where, if you are the tiniest bit awake to *magic*, know that it runs deep here. Even as someone who could have the potential to pay enough at auction to lease a cabin, I am in support of HB1348. I have grown up to see over-tourism and a total disregard for Hawai'i from so many visitors, and from some here on the islands as well. Supporting this bill means supporting the local residents of our county to continue the legacy that is Koke'e: it means supporting our kei'ki to grow up with a deep *first-hand* knowledge of how sacred our 'aina is. It means supporting the continuation of sharing our culture with the world, not letting it be destroyed for financial gains. Supporting HB1348 is supporting Koke'e's magic for generations to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. I urge you to support HB1348.

Caitlin Stiglmeier

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:50:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 3, 2025

Mary Ann Alexander Lentz

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

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

For meeting February 4, 2025

Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery**TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND,**

Aloha Chair Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair Representative Rachele Lamosao, and members of the committee:

I am writing in **strong support of HB 1348** 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 between the homes of Pu‘ukapele building “menehune houses” from twigs, a fifth generation learns to love Koke‘e. Our cabin, originally a plantation camp house, is truly a recreational residence, a place where we come, away from city life, reconnect with the land, and fully appreciate our island home.

Please allow us to negotiate to renew our lease based on the value of the land upon which this humble cabin sits. HB1348 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 and urge its passing. Mahalo for your attention.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:17:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Feb 3, 2025

Christine Hughes

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1348 Relating to Public Lands.

Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation -residence Use Leases; Public Lottery on Feb 4th, 2025

To: Committee on Water and Land

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachel Lamosao, Vice Chair

I am writing in support of HB1348 which amends HRS171-44 to have the process work in a fair manner and proper process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on Kauai

My family has been on Kauai for generations, we have grown up going to Kokee for over a hundred years, it's the most beautiful place and so many years of beautiful memories. If we were able to move to this new lottery it may help support the current home owners the opportunity to keep it in there families for generations to come.

My Sister's husband still has an amazing home up at Kokee and am thankful for any opportunity I have to be invited there; it is a place that our entire family holds dear to our hearts.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciate you giving us the opportunity to share our support of HB1348.

Mahalo

Christine Hughes

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:27:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie W Minson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feb. 3, 2025

Julie W Minson

Eugene, OR

HB1348, Tues, Feb 4, 2025, 9:00am HST

To the Committee on Water and Land:

I am in strong support of HB1348 which will amend HRS171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for the Kauai community to acquire leases for recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks.

Although I no longer live in Hawaii, my family has roots on Kauai and have spent the past 100 yrs treasuring Kokee and promoting its preservation as a revered place for the people of Kauai. We must assure that it remains accessible and fair for Kauai residents. HB1348 would provide incentive for the leaseholders to continue to invest in and care for the historic cabins and the treasured land on which they sit.

Thank you for hearing this testimony. I urge you to support HB1348.

Julie W Minson

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:33:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Kitamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The recreational residence program in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Ni'ihau. It should remain that way by exclusively leasing to residents of the same county.

The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system.

Koke'e is one of the few places on the island where there's extremely accessible large tracts of intact native landscape. The cabins allow for the public to stay near this disappearing ecosystem and connect with it. Without the cabins, I wouldn't have been able to spend months there getting to learn my native plants with Koke'e Resource Conservation Program. It's helped shaped me into the person I am today and also served as a large motivation to get my master's degree.

This bill has the chance to impact countless residents for the better - not just the residents of Kauai and Ni'ihau. I hope that you'll consider supporting this bill as well. Mahalo for your time!

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:49:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

John Peter Watts

makaleha_arts@yahoo.com

BY EMAIL ONLY

February 2, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Water and Land

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair

House of Representatives

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96813

MEETING IN HONOLULU on February 4, 2025

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPOERT OF THE PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1348, Relating to
Public Lands

Aloha,

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

This bill authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in that lottery to residents of the county in which the leased land is located. This amendment will provide a fair and affordable opportunity for local families like ours going forward.

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

Very truly yours,

Peter

1751 Hulu Road, Kapaa, Kauai, 96746

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:20:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eleanor Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is _Eleano Snyder _____ and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:30:38 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherin Nalani Hance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 4, 2025

From: Katherin Nalani Hance

Honokaa, County of Hawai'i

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

Hearing to be held February 4th, 2025

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

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348, which amends HRS 171-44 to ensure a fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for recreational residence cabins in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Kōke'e holds deep significance for my family. My great-grandfather dedicated his life to the local plantation and community in Mana, Kaua'i, and his hard work was rewarded with a home in Puka Pele, Kōke'e, upon his retirement. When I was about six years old, my parents were fortunate to lease an affordable cabin, allowing us to continue our family's connection to this

special place. We spent countless weekends maintaining both properties—removing invasive blackberry and ivy, restoring the land’s natural beauty, and preserving the homes with care.

For years, Kōke‘e was the heart of our family gatherings, a place I cherish above all others. Even now, my home on the Big Island in Ahualoa was chosen because it reminds me of Kōke‘e.

Unfortunately, we lost both cabins when our lease came up for renewal. Out-of-state buyers outbid us—ordinary plantation families—at prices we simply couldn’t match. These new owners disregarded the original character of the home, making massive structural changes, and neglected the grounds we had worked so hard to maintain.

This is why I strongly advocate for replacing the auction system with a lottery. The current process has repeatedly displaced local families like mine, stripping us of our deep-rooted connection to Kōke‘e. A lottery system would provide a fair opportunity for Kaua‘i residents to retain these homes when leases become available, prioritizing those who have cared for and preserved these lands for generations.

Every lease renewal cycle reminds me of the painful loss of our family cabin. Keeping a lease in Kōke‘e has become a complicated and burdensome process. By implementing a lottery system and granting Kaua‘i residents the first opportunity to acquire leases from non-compliant or uninterested lessees, we can restore fairness and keep Kōke‘e’s legacy in the hands of those who truly cherish it.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1348 to ensure that local families can continue to call Kōke‘e home for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Katherin Nalani Hance

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:40:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaehukaiihaamainae Keala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Below this use the talking points to create your own testimony. It should not be more than one page. You do not have to hit all of the talking points. Just hit the main ones like the lottery and ability to renew your lease at the end if you are in good standing.

Be sure to close by thanking them and urging them again to support HB1348.

Kaehukaiihaamainae Keala

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:01:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Jacintho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wayne Jacintho -- 4803 Puuwai Rd, Kalaheo, Kauai, HI, 96741

February 4, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.**Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery****TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Honorable Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Aloha.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to carry on or acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

As a long-time Kauai-born leaseholder, I strongly believe the Public Auction system for Kokee Leases is grossly unfair to working-class people and families. HB1348 removes possession of wealth from the ability to acquire, or hold on to, a Kokee lease.

By giving assurance of being able to rollover one's lease for another term, one is finally able to put hard-earned money into improvements knowing that one won't be penalized for MAKING improvements. Over the years of my lease I've poured thousands of dollars (as well as countless hours of time) into my cabin and lot. Yet there are improvements which I cannot bring myself to

make, for example putting on a new roof, which under the old law would result in my lease rent being raised.

I firmly believe that HB1348 brings fairness and comfort to existing working-class families such as myself, my ohana, and my extended ohana, and will result in great benefit to the State, in the form of lasting repairs and improvements to these venerable cabins which constitute the Historic Kokee Leaseholds.

And when cabins become available as they continually do, having a lottery for these newly-emptied cabins will insure that ANYONE, regardless of class, will be able to take on their lease without being sent to the poorhouse.

I believe HB1348 is a win-win for the State, for current leaseholders, and for future leaseholders. I thank for accepting my testimony, and I ask that you pass HB1348.

Mahalo nui loa,

(signed) Wayne Jacintho

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:06:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hau'oli Wichman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hau'oli Wichman, and I live on Kauai. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1348.

HB1348 is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery, and it also restricts participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

Mahalo,
Hau'oli Wichman

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:12:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ililani LHote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is ‘Ililani LHote and I am a resident of Kaua‘i. I am submitting testimony strongly supporting HB1348 because I feel that there should be a fair and equitable process for local Kaua‘i residents to acquire leases for State-owned Kōke‘e and Waimea cabins. I think the lottery system is the best way to accomplish this. Leasees in good standing should also be able to renew their leases. Mahalo for letting me submit my testimony.

Mahalo,

Ililani

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:15:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lizzy Baxter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The housing crisis in Hawaii already prefers rich tourists over residents. If the cabins in Kokee are allowed to be given to those who don't even live here, more of the rich homebase that is presented by Hawaiians will be lost. So little of Hawaii is preferred for the residents.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:17:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Andrea Alfiler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Andrea Alfiler, I live in Kapahi, Kauai, and I am in support of HB1348.

I grew up going to Koke'e with my family, and it has been a special place of respite, rejuvenation and communion. In a fast changing community, the realities of living day to day can be grim. Access to recreational spaces are of the utmost importance to maintain the well-being of Kauai residents and vitality of community.

Mahalo for your consideration to support HB1348.

Aloha,

M. Andrea Alfiler

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:18:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Joann Givens

4232 Puu Pinao Place, Koloa, HI 96756

February 4, 2025

TO: Committee o Water and Land

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kauai.

My family has enjoyed our cabin in Hale Manu Valley for over 50 years. Three generations have enjoyed the special area known as Kokee. We have lovingly maintained our cabin and the grounds. We strongly support the proposal to renegotiate leases with current lessees who have maintained the properties and are in good standing with the state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joann Givens and ohana

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:19:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalena Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:21:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Kona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My name Is Jodie Kona I am a born and raised local from Kauai. This bill is EXTREMELY important to the locals of Niihau and Kauai as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! For myself I've grown up on the westside where we spent majority of our time with families and friends up in kokee and I am fortunate to be a apart of kokee. I wish to continue to share this with my family for generations to come. Without this bill I believe that this will be another Piece of Kauai ripped away from the locals! The 7 auctioned cabins that took place 2024 is a prime example. This should NOT have happened and can not happen again. Please, PLEASE pass this measure.

Jodie Kona- PO Box 617 3535 Hamo Place Hanapepe HI 96716

Gloria A. Estrella
PO Box 602
Kilauea, Kauai, HI. 96754

February 3, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

I believe that making the ability for Hawai'i and Kauai residents to acquire cabins for family use and recreation is important for the integrity of the lands of Kokee because we have the aloha to keep the aina pristene. We have so little left to enjoy as permanent residents and deserve to have preference to obtain the leases for local family use and enjoyment.

Thank you for your sincere consideration on this important land management matter.
Thank you for supporting HB1348

Aloha aina and mahalo nui loa,

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:24:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Kuala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Marty Kuala and I am a long time resident of Koloa. Kokee is dear to my heart and I want to see our Kauai leaseholders treated fairly. I support HB1348. I hope the BLNR will restrict a public lottery to ONLY to Kauai county residents. Please pass HB1348. as it is the only fair and just thing to do. Mahalo,Marty Kuala P.O.Box 785, Koloa Hi. 96756

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:29:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Joanne Murphy

237 Kipu Place, Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

(808) 346 - 1201

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I'm writing to support HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The high bids in the 2024 Koke'e cabin auction plus the cost of the cabin improvements was too much for Kauai families to consider because of struggling to make ends meet. A lottery would give hope to acquire a cabin.

Neighbor islands should be excluded from the lottery because Koke'e is so special. You want people that care for the area and will malama it by making sure people take care of it. I've known a family that has leased it since the beginning and they made improvements to the road. Those leaseholders are known to many residents for sharing their cabin use, so many of us

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

Please keep the appraisals for the lease affordable so they could upkeep their cabins. Please allow them to negotiate directly with the state to renew the leases. I feel the one-time fee to transfer leases is reasonable.

Thank you so much for allowing me to give a written testimony in support of HB 1348 and I hope you'll support it.

Mahalo,

Joanne Murphy

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in favor of HB1348 & SB1517. Our family has been owners of cabins in Koke'e for over 100 years. We have enjoyed the area for many generations. My wife's family (Knudsen) was one of the original folks to build recreational tents and a cabin.

We can't let what occurred in the 2024 auction when wealthy new residents were able to easily outbid local families.

The Knudsen family lost their original recreational property when there was a similar auction maybe 40 years ago. History didn't matter; it went to the highest bidder.

Thank you,

Gregory and Cecilia Williams

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:31:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chandra Bertsch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chandra Bertsch

PO Box 53

Kalaheo, HI 96741

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

As part of a hui for a cabin in Kokee, I strongly support HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The cabins are such a special resource and provide an opportunity for our friends and family to share quality time in a beautiful place. My keiki have been going to the cabin with us since they were babies, and it would mean so much to know we have an opportunity to continue our lease so this place can continue to be our retreat space. Knowing we can renew the lease also gives incentive to do some of the major and expensive upgrades that are becoming necessary to keep the cabin in good condition.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chandra Bertsch

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:37:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

02/03/2025

Andrea L Slaski LMT.

Wailua, Kaua'i

HB1348 Febuary 4, 2025

Aloha, I am writing today to express my support of HB1348. I strongly beleive that the Kokee State Park cabin lots should be leased by public lottery. and participation should be limited to Kaua'i and Niihau residents only. I also beleive that any current leaseholder in good standing with the state BDLNR should be allowed to renew their current lease for the said 20 year lease period. Thank you for your time and support of HB1348.

Andrea L Slaski

Feb 4, 2025 9:00 AM

Melela'i Beck

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB 1348

In Support of Bill

HB 1348

I am in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44. If the state does not pass this bill, Kaua'i will move further away from supporting its local community, and perpetuate the wealthy "residents" who reside here. Specifically, I am in strong support of allowing renewals of leases for current cabin owners. Confiscating leases to auction off at ridiculous prices is the perfect example of disconnecting people from the 'āina. It was clearly displayed in the last bid of the 7 vacant cabins, that 99% of Kaua'i's community can not afford to purchase a lease. And, if it is exclusively the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau counties (which it should), you can imagine what 1% of residents will be the ones buying. Perhaps the same 1% of our society that has created mass inflation from the concentration of their wealth. With the loss of our 'āina and native ecosystems, Locals rely on Koke'e as one of their last places to still connect. A place for families to hunt for food, for people to harvest native plants, to oli and mele, to watch, to learn. How will we inspire our next generation to fight for what we have if we are the ones who sell it off? How is it fair to work against our own people? Please consider passing this bill. Enable the real community to still have access to stay in our beloved koke'e. Provide a more fair way for people to purchase leases to these cabins via lottery. For Koke'e takes care of us, and shows us how prosperous our 'āina can be. Keep it so she can still inspire people like me to go to school for 'āina, and to fight against auctions exactly like this one. Thank you for considering the passing of this bill for our families and lāhui. Mahalo,

Melela'i K. Beck

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melela'i K. Beck', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:39:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Zachary Davis

309 Molo St

Kapaa, HI. 96746

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

Please take into consideration that several families work very hard to preserve the lands of Kokee and to maintain the cabins and land for which they hold the lease. We will continue to maintain a good standing with the State Parks and the island of Kauai for the remainder of our leases and continuing on to the future.

We appreciate your understanding in this delicate subject. Support HB1348

Mahalos , Zachary Davis

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:39:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy M Kacsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Amy Kacsh

5481A Emi Rd. Koloa 96756

February 4, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Overall, we want to support HB1348 and companion bill SB 1517 in their entirety as drafted. While this bill could use some improvement, we want to support it as it is currently written. We may need to amend the language as it goes along but for now are not asking for the bill to be amended.

#1. HB1348 give the DLNR the ability to hold a lottery for vacant recreational residence cabins rather than an auction.

The April 2024 auction of seven long neglected cabins demonstrated once and for all that an auction is not the right mechanism to make cabins available to the residents of Kauai. The auction drove annual lease rent up to the point that 99% of the local residents on Kauai will never be able to afford a recreational residence cabin in Koke`e.

The 2024 auction process resulted in cabins that were totally dilapidated going for annual lease rents in the \$30-\$40K range. This is beyond the reach of multigenerational local residents with regular jobs and families - even if they form a hui to help cover the costs.

The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a

recreational residence in Kōke'e is via a lottery system.

#2. Only people who are residents of the same County where the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in the lottery for a cabin lease.

This is super important for the people of Kauai County as they will be drowned out by a wave of lottery applicants from other counties with much high population numbers. The recreational residence program in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau. It should remain that way.

3. HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest their own money to care for and improve these historic properties that are owned by the State. By excluding the value of any of on-site improvements (made by the lessee during the term of their lease) in determining the fair market value of a lease when it is up for renewal this bill provides an important incentive for lessees to make the costly improvements like a roof replacement.

#4. HB1348 incentivizes lessees to remain in good standing and truly abide by the terms of their lease and be good stewards of the property as it allows for lessees in "good standing" to be able to renew their lease when the lease comes to an end.

Lessees who have been good stewards of their cabins and the land, and who are in good standing, will be able to "directly negotiate with the board to extend the lease for an additional term not to exceed twenty years". This is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which is what the Hawaii system was modeled after when it was set up in 1918. The State currently has little ability to enforce the terms of the recreational residence leases due to limited staffing but 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.

#5. We support the idea of a one-time fee of \$1,200 for any lease which is being transferred to a new lessee.

This is only fair and helps to compensate State Parks for the work their staff has to do to accommodate this lease transfer.

In closing, I ask that this be supported with the strength and reverence of, and for, the people of Kauai County. I am a transplant myself, and Kōke'e holds precious memories for me from my very first time to come to Kauai. My friend shared the cabin of her ohana with mine, and the time spent then is still lovingly remembered today. We have spent much time together over the years there and I know so many residents here that cherish Kōke'e. Please support HB 1438.

Mahalo,

Amy Kacsh

Elizabeth Lentz-Hill
583 Kamoku St., #2307
Honolulu, HI

February 3, 2025

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1348 Relating to Public Lands

To: Committee on Water and Land
Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I write in strong SUPPORT for HB 1348, Relating to Public Lands.

The bill will support keeping leases available for those for whom they were originally intended, as well as encourage lessees to perform needed upkeep and safety measures to cabins.

Mahalo for your consideration, and I encourage you to vote FOR HB 1348.

Elizabeth Lentz-Hill

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:42:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Koziarski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Natalie Koziarski and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery (where only the richest people win) to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this. Please pass this measure.

Natalie Koziarski

5251 Laipo Rd, Kapaa, Hawaii

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:43:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayahna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

After watching previous auctions be unequally awarded to attendees with incentivized investments for Airbnb or other rental aspirations. This seems a necessary legislative action to take to ensure that cherished places of the community can be attainable and accessible for local families.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:50:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrian Muraoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

My name is Darrian, and I reside in Kekaha, Kaua'i. I am in full support of HB 1348. Many of my community members were raised in Koke'e and have leased the cabins located there. The April 2024 auction of seven long neglected cabins demonstrated once and for all that an auction is not the right mechanism to make cabins available to the residents of Kauai. The auction drove annual lease rent up to the point that 99% of the local residents on Kauai will never be able to afford a recreational residence cabin in Koke'e. The 2024 auction process resulted in cabins that were totally dilapidated going for annual lease rents in the \$30-\$40K range. This is beyond the reach of multigenerational local residents with regular jobs and families - even if they form a hui to help cover the costs. The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system.

This is super important for the people of Kauai County as they will be drowned out by a wave of lottery applicants from other counties with much high population numbers. The recreational residence program in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks was created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau. It should remain that way.

Lessees who have been good stewards of their cabins and the land, and who are in good standing, should be able to "directly negotiate with the board to extend the lease for an additional term not to exceed twenty years". This is consistent with the U.S. Forest Service model which is what the Hawaii system was modeled after when it was set up in 1918. The State currently has little ability to enforce the terms of the recreational residence leases due to limited staffing but 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.

Please support HB1348.**Mahalo for your time,****Darrian Muraoka****Kekaha, Kaua'i**

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:52:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Sheehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 3, 2025

Patricia Sheehan

Hanalei, Kauai

Subject: Written support of HB1348, Relating to Public Lands

To the Committee on Water and Land

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing my testimony in strong support of HB1348. Amending HRS 171-44 will help greatly to make it a more fair and equitable way for the residents of Kauai and Niihau to acquire a recreational cabin lease in Kokee on Kauai. This bill also provides an incentive for existing lessees to continue to invest their own money to keep up the very special types of cabins that each cabin represents. There is a long and significant history of recreational cabin use that can continue with lessees who have, with this bill's passing, the ability to continue to malama the Kokee aina.

Mahalo for considering my written testimony and for your efforts to pass this bill.

, Patricia Sheehan

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:53:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Robert McKibbin Mist and my family is from Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! I strongly support this bill, please pass this measure.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:56:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Walters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Maile Walters and I'm a 5th generation Kauai resident. I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

My parents got married at Waineke cabin and we've spent countless hours up in Koke'e enjoying the beauty and majesty of the mountains and her forest. We looked at cabins before the auction, but the level of work required on them was out of our price range. We were so sad as it's been a dream to be part of the cabin community up in Kokee for decades!

The April 2024 auction of seven long neglected cabins demonstrated once and for all that an auction is not the right mechanism to make cabins available to the residents of Kauai. The auction drove annual lease rent up to the point that 99% of the local residents on Kauai will never be able to afford a recreational residence cabin in Koke'e. The 2024 auction process resulted in cabins that were totally dilapidated going for annual lease rents in the \$30-\$40K range. This is beyond the reach of multigenerational local residents with regular jobs and families - even if they form a hui to help cover the costs.

The only fair way for local residents to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system.

Please support this bill!!

Thank you for your consideration! Aloha, Maile

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:59:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilani Ventura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Hi'ilani Ventura and I am from Kilauea, Kaua'i. Living on the North Shore, it is sad to see the rise our local people being bought out by wealthier, foreign individuals. It is my hope that Koke'e does not fall victim to this same issue, and local people from Kaua'i are given a chance at being able to lease cabins. Camping and enjoying Koke'e has been a long-time tradition in my family. For these reasons, I am in support of HB1348.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:00:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristin Mahuiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a born and Raised Kauai Citizen and have always loved going up to kokee Weather be for school work hunting camping or just spending time with family, kokee Hold a special place in my heart for not only my friends and family, But for all of the local families that could and possibly have a cabin up in kokee. These rights for being able to own purchase or lease these cabins should strictly and only be allowed to local residents or families that have live on Kauai. I hope this bill passes so A local families Can secure Our lands that we love so dear

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:01:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawai Vierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha esteemed members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Kawaiokanaio Vierra, and I write to you as a kanaka maoli, a child of this land, and a descendant of those who have lived in deep connection with Kaua‘i and Kōke‘e for generations. I submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1348, not just as a matter of policy, but as a matter of justice—of protecting sacred spaces, honoring the kuleana of those who have cared for these lands, and ensuring that future generations of kānaka will always have a place to stand.

Kōke‘e is my pu‘uhonua. It is the only place in the world where I find complete peace, clarity, and beauty. It is the only place that makes sense to me. It is not just where I spent time—it is where I was practically raised. My greatest and most cherished memories were made there, surrounded by the ‘āina, the cool mountain air, and the voices of my ‘ohana. It is where I ran barefoot through the kuahiwi, played in the ditches, and where my imagination could roam as freely as the mist over Waimea Canyon. Kōke‘e is not just a location; it is my foundation.

I do not just carry my own memories of this place—I carry the memories and mo‘olelo of those who came before me. My very name, Kawaiokanaio, was given to me by my tūtū kāne, my great-grandfather, Kala Kapahu. He named me after the waters of Kanaio, an ancient and storied place in Waimea Valley, fed by the same stream that flows from Wai‘ale‘ale to the valley below. It was in Kanaio that my tūtū kāne found solace and peace, camping beneath the stars, listening to the whispers of the land. I have yet to set foot in this place that carries my name, yet I know in my heart that my journey will not be complete until I do. My ‘aumākua will not take me before I have stood where he stood, felt what he felt, and honored the connection that was passed down to me.

Kōkeʻe holds even more than my past—it holds my future. It is where my beloved baby, whom I was never blessed to meet, rests. And it is where my own ʻiwi will return when my time here is done. There is no other place on this earth where I feel the presence of my ancestors so strongly, where I know with certainty that I belong.

And yet, Kōkeʻe—a sacred wao akua, a place where kānaka have always gone for refuge, healing, and spiritual connection—is being auctioned away to the highest bidder. The 2024 auction proved what we have feared all along: the current system prioritizes wealth over connection, profit over stewardship. Kōkeʻe is becoming just another commodity, another piece of our homeland that kānaka are being pushed out of. But Kōkeʻe was never meant to belong to the wealthy—it was meant to belong to the people of Kauaʻi and Niʻihau.

The United States has a long and shameful history of using auctions and land sales to strip Indigenous peoples of their lands and lifeways. The Dawes Act of 1887 is just one example, where Native American lands were divided, sold, and systematically taken from the people who had lived on and cared for them for generations. The impact of those policies was devastating—entire communities were displaced, cultural ties were severed, and sacred places were lost. If we do not act now, the same fate awaits Kōkeʻe.

House Bill 1348 is not just about leases—it is about protecting a legacy. A lottery system will restore fairness and ensure that the people of Kauaʻi—those with ancestral and cultural ties to Kōkeʻe—have an equal opportunity to remain stewards of this land. It aligns with the original intent of the recreational residence program, established 100 years ago for the benefit of Kauaʻi and Niʻihau residents. More importantly, it acknowledges that Kōkeʻe is not just real estate—it is wahi pana, a sacred place whose true value cannot be measured in dollars.

As a loyal subject of the Hawaiian Kingdom, I remain dedicated to the protection of our lands, our people, and our sovereignty. The illegal overthrow of our kingdom did not erase our duty to defend our ʻāina. We must stand firm against the continued dispossession of our homeland. If Kōkeʻe is lost to us, it will not be because we were silent.

I humbly urge you to pass House Bill 1348 and take a stand for what is pono—for justice, for our ancestors, and for the generations yet to come.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o, me ka ha‘aha‘a, a me ke aloha ‘āina,

Alyssah Kawaiokanaio Vierra

Ke Aupuni Hawai‘i Kūpa‘a

Ka Pua o Kaua‘i a Manokalanipō

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:04:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sasha & Clancy Doorish

4673D Puuwai Rd.

Kalaheo, HI 96741

February 3, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

We truly feel that only people who are residents of the same County where the recreational residences are located should be able to participate in the lottery for a cabin

lease. This is super important for the people of Kauai County as they will be drowned out by a wave of lottery applicants from other counties with much high population numbers.

The recreational residence program in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks were

created 100 years ago by the Territorial government working with the County government as a resource for the people of Kauai and Niihau. It should remain that way.

Our family have been fortunate enough to enjoy this cabin, creating endless memories and traditions, for five generations under the same roof. We look forward to the opportunity of our children's children carrying on the tradition of good stewardship to this land and structure that we love and cherish. This can be made possible by HB1348 which would allow our family to renew our lease when it comes to and end, as long as we are in good standing.

Thank you all for your time and consideration into this matter that we hold dear to our hearts, and humbly ask for your support of HB1348.

Mahalo,

Sasha & Clancy Doorish

Julie Pavao
P.O. Box 338
Kilauea, HI 96754

February 4, 2025

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

Report Title:

Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

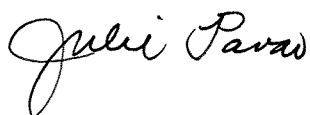
Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

The only fair way for locals who were born and raised on Kaua'i to have an opportunity to obtain a lease for a recreational residence in Koke'e is via a lottery system. With an auction, we are not able to afford this opportunity to have a recreational residence in Koke'e.

The recreational residence program in Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks should remain as a resource for the people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. I also support the suggestion of a one-time fee of \$1,200 for any lease which is being transferred to a new lessee that are from Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Mahalo nui loa for giving me an opportunity to share my voice with you and I urge you again to please support HB1348.



Julie Pavao

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:14:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johny Sante	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:15:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kane Zalopany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kane Zalopany and I'm born & raised on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only full time residents that live in the county of in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this as outside interests will impact the community. Please pass this measure.

Kane Zalopany

PO Box 249

koloa, Hi. 96756

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:30:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert French	Lealani Corporation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bob French with Lealani Corporation, Brennecke's Restaurant and I live on Kauai, born and raised in Hawaii. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! We have enjoyed this leasehold property since 1986. We have improved the property, allowed resident friends use of the facility and worked within the restrictions of the lease. Please pass this measure. Kokee is an important portion of my personal history. Our family has enjoyed the use of other cabins since 1953.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:21:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Peeren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kokke Cabins should be for Kauai Local people only. Outer island and mainland lessees will not maintain the cabins.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:36:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delhart Numazu III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a lease holder and have been blessed along with my family to have obtained a cabin along makaha ridge. This cabin has been in the family for over 20 years and has been maintained to the highest standard with love and respect. We spend our time almost every weekend and holidays enjoying the beauty and peace that is our sanctuary when up Mauka. This past auction was ridiculous and a slap in the face to the residents hear who have had the same history as our family does leasing a cabin. We lose culture and tradition by letting people buy their way in to our lands and now cabins of kokee. Taking away what we as Hawai'i locals who are born and raised have cherished and worked so hard to keep in our family. Please understand that this lease is not a yearly vacay stay and go back to the mainland. This is no take a weekend getaway to site see. We have tradition and family orientation when we are Mauka and we deserve every opportunity to keep it before anyone else. My kids kids will always remember where they grew up and the traditions of hunting and fishing. The hikes and discovering of plants and nature. The love the find when we are together away in a secret nurturing environment that we have grown to love over many years. Keep these cabins local to to the people and please give us as holders the chance to extend as we please before allowing anyone to take it from us. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jeremy Kalawaia Lee
3592 Maka Ala Street
Hanapepe, HI 96716

February 3, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1348 RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.
Report Title: Public Lands; Recreation-residence Use Leases; Public Lottery

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

As a lifelong resident of Kauai, I am writing in strong support of HB 1348 which amends HRS 171-44 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community to acquire leases for the recreational residence cabins in Kokee and Waimea Canyon State Parks on the island of Kaua'i.

HB1348 gives the DLNR the ability to hold a lottery for vacant recreational residence cabins rather than an auction. This simple change gives the state the ability to get fair value for the lots while making the process fair for the individuals that pre-qualify to participate in the selection to lease a Koke'e lot.

HB1348 provides an incentive for lessees to continue to invest their own money to care for and improve these historic properties that are owned by the State. personal investment in the properties have been the core of

HB1348 incentivizes lessees to remain in good standing and truly abide by the terms of their lease and be good stewards of the property as it allows for lessees in "good standing" to be able to renew their lease when the lease comes to an end.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1348 to protect this unique aspect of Kauai's lifestyle while developing equity in how we access public lands.

Mahalo for the time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Jeremy Kalawaia Lee
Kalawaia.lee@gmail.com
808-639-8286

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:41:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dena Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dena Souza and I live on Kauai. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."

Kokee has long been a spiritual retreat for many local residents. It is important to preserve the sacredness of Kokee so that our Hawaiian culture may be preserved and perpetuated for our future. There is no other place quite as special to our local community than Kokee. It needs protection and if the leases continue to be exploited in the sake of greed, it is frightening to fear that our mountain paradise will be gone forever.

Please support this bill and the community of Kauai and Niihau.

Mahalo,

Dena Souza

4870 Puuwai Rd /Po Box 1250

Kalaheo, HI 96741

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:00:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tamra martin moriguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of changing the Koke'e cabin auction back to a lottery for Kaua'i residents as it was originally intended. There is a special culture held among those who frequent Koke'e recreationally. There's plum picking, trout fishing, lei making with plants not found at other levels, hunting, and more. Many Kaua'i families have had their cabins in their family for generations and those traditions could be at risk if the leases aren't affordable for generational residents. The recent auction was heartbreaking. Like many other people, I've been waiting for years to have a chance to bid on a cabin and even with a hui of friends to go in with us it was out of the question when we heard what the prices would be like. The people who have been accessing Koke'e for generations are the people who know the place names, they know the ridges and valleys, and they know the plants. Losing the type of access that recreational residences provide will cause the loss of place based knowledge. Please push this bill to the next committee.

Thank you,

Tamra Moriguchi

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:33:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Extremely in support of this Bill

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:55:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raychel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support HB1348. We agree that it is only fair to open the auctions for Kokee cabins to only Kauai residents. This gives locals from our community the opportunity to lease the cabins. Hopefully we can keep it affordable and put a cap on the price of the lease. We are also concerned at the large amounts of million and billionaires moving to our island blocking local people from being able to afford these leases. These cabins have been rebuilt, restored, up kept and in good standing by the current leasees and that should be considered when choosing who wins the lease.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:12:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Margaret Maupin. I am a resident of Kauai and a member of Kauai Indivisible. This bill HB 1348 is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure.

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:19:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

John Kocher

P.O. Box 1013

Kalaheo, HI 96741

February 3, 2025

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

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair

Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I am writing in strong support of HB1348 which amends HRS 171-144 to make it a more fair and equitable process for our community and our long time families to reaquire leases for our reeational resident cabins in our Kokee and Waimea State park here on the island of Kauai.

Our family has had our home in Haemanu Valley since 1930. Ive seen ice boxes on the back porch, Kerosene laterns, the valley get together and build a dam at a spring to bring water, at no cost to the state, to our nine homes. The first tank was a redwood one. Later in years, we purchased a 3,000 gallon stainless tank from Waimea dairy, set it up and dug 2ft trenches down into the valley so that each house could have PVC pipes instead of the rusting galvanized clogging our

water. I've seen electricity come into the valley, the telephone and now we have wifi.

The only time we ask the state for help is if a tree so large falls, we need a machine to move it. This last weekend I cut trees off the road so KIUC would be able to come in and re-hook up our Electricity. The state also came in and cut the larger limbs and pushed them out of the way so the road would reopen. The stewards of Halemanu repair the road at no cost to the state.

I ask for you to support the lottery for Kauai and Niihau residence only and allow those in good standing with the State to negotiate their next lease.

Thank you very much for considering these thoughts.

Aloha,

Jed Kocher

Lot 7, Halemanu Kauai, Hawai'i

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:19:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Feb 3, 2025

"My name is Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen, raised in Wailua, Kaua'i and now residing in Waimea. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to ONLY residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! I encourage you to please pass HB 1348 to protect this unique aspect of Kauai's heritage and culture; as we continue to provide stewardship to these historical cabins in Koke'e. Please pass this measure."

Sincerely,

Linda Michelle Alimboyoguen

Kaua'i Native, Zensations Massage Therapy

PO Box 758

Waimea, HI 96796

(808) 651-9492

TESTIMONY
by
JoAnn A. Yukimura
before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Re HB 1348

February 4, 202

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee Members:

My name is JoAnn Yukimura. I was born and raised on Kaua'i and served in elected office as mayor or councilmember on Kaua'i for 28 years. Today, I speak as a private citizen for myself and my family in favor of HB 1348

Like many of the families who live on Kaua'i, my 'ohana loves Koke'e. It is a place of refuge and rest, where we can enjoy the beauty, peace and rejuvenating power of nature. We go there as often as we can. My husband and I were married there many years ago.

As we saw from the recent auction, a auction system effectively excludes most of the families on Kaua'i because we cannot afford the kind of rents that result from such a process.

We support HB 1348's proposal of a lottery system among Kaua'i residents as a fair way to distribute the leases. It is the Kaua'i families who can most easily access Koke'e, and it is Kaua'i families for whom the recreational residence program was developed years ago. Kaua'ians love their island home, and most will take good care of the resource if given the proper framework in which to make it all work. HB 1348 provides such a framework.

Please pass HB 1348 out of committee with your approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony

HB-1348

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:18:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
patrice pendarvis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Patrice Pendarvis and I lived on Kauai for 50 years. This bill is very important as it authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to lease recreational-residence cabins by public lottery and restrict participation in the public lottery to only residents that live in the county in which the leased land is located. This is the most fair and equitable way to do this!!! Please pass this measure."