

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – August 2003

For Friends of the Forest & the Koke'e Leaseholders Association

LEASES TO BE EXTENDED

- ✓ **Our leases will be extended until December 31, 2006, due to the delay in the master plan. The driving factor is the law (HRS 171-33) requiring lessees to be given two years notice of a potential change in use.**
- ✓ **The master plan consultant, R. M. Towill Corp., will present three alternatives for Koke'e at a public meeting – now scheduled for September.**
- ✓ **The Board of Land & Natural Resources will decide the future of Koke'e next year.**

How Can We Help DLNR Make More Intelligent Choices for our community?

- ✓ **Attend the public meetings on Koke'e**
- ✓ **Join us on Saturday, August 16 for our annual community workday**
- ✓ **Support your Association – if you are not already a member, join today!**

Koke'e History Project completed with the help of many friends

Dawn Duensing, our consultant for the history of the Recreation Residence Tracts, documented the historical significance of our cabins. She wrote:

“The survey and analysis of the Koke'e Camps and Pu'u Ka Pele Lots, based on research and fieldwork, concluded **that a majority (eighty-one) of the recreational cabins** may retain their traditional appearance and historic

integrity. Together, these cabins may constitute a **historic district**. Under the Secretary of the Interior's significance criteria A and C, the buildings have been evaluated in the areas of architecture and social history.” *(emphasis added)*

The document is an excellent history of the Koke'e cabins, with descriptions and a photo of each of the eighty one contributing structures. The original document will be presented to the Kauai Historical Society with a copy to the Koke'e Museum.

The project was funded by a major donation from the **S. W. Wilcox Foundation**, and with the donations from over 50 leaseholders and friends. At the initiative of State Parks, the master plan consultant also provided funds for the project. A big **Mahalo** to everyone who helped this important project!

The 2003 Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 81

asked DLNR to *consider* designating Koke'e as a historic district, and to *consider* administering our leases under applicable Hawaii law – that is, negotiate with us. Thanks to our Kauai delegation – Ezra Kanoho, Bertha Kawakami, Mina Morita and Gary Hooser – the bill had broad support and passed both houses, but differences between the House and Senate versions were not resolved in the last days of the Legislature.

House Bill 428 would have changed Hawaii Law

to authorize DLNR to negotiate recreation residence leases and to extend existing leases for up to 20 years. It did not make the crossover, and so Ezra Kanoho folded similar language into another Kauai bill, **House Bill 426**. It passed the House, but was strongly opposed by the minority in the Senate, who made a public

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – August 2003

issue of including the Koke'e leases as a "sweetheart deal."

It would not appear that those who objected so strongly had even read the bill, which in fact set up a reasonable auction process. The Koke'e provisions did not pass the Senate. To avoid compromising the other beneficiaries of the bill, we suggested that Ezra's Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee concur with the Senate version. It passed both Houses, but then the Governor vetoed it.

From The Galloping News

Vol. 1 No. 3, August 2, 1930

"Betsy Knudsen celebrates. Betsy Knudsen celebrated her birthday with a party. Those present were: Dick Sutton, White Sutton Jr., Henry Benson, Charley Dole, Karin Aaser, Marion Cullen, Helen Rice and Anne Knudsen. The table was very prettily decorated by Val, Sandie, and Eric Knudsen. After dinner the party played twenty one. The party was enjoyed by all. The Birthday Girl was twelve."

Leaseholders in the News

Ua hala na kupuna Bunt Baldwin, who with his wife **Anne Knudsen Baldwin** was a long time leaseholder, on February 18, at 89.

Bruce Wichman's series on the history and legends of Kauai continues with a new book, *Na Pua Alii o Kauai – Ruling Chiefs of Kauai*, available at the Kokee Museum and other fine bookshops.

Chipper Wichman was named acting director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. Chipper said that "The work that is being done at NTBG is critically important to preserving our heritage for future generations." In his new capacity, he will be responsible for running the three Kauai botanical gardens – the McBryde, Allerton

and Limahuli gardens -- of the NTBG, which have been described as being among the most beautiful gardens in the world

What's happening on the mountain?

August 16, Saturday – Our Annual Community Workday. RSVP, please.

We've now replaced the deteriorated roofs and renovated the major public structures within the Parks, so our next workday will concentrate on cleaning, painting, and landscaping. Bob French (**Brennecke's Broiler**) will donate lunch. Leave a message with Frank Hay at 639.7704 to let us know you will join us for lunch.

September? The next community meeting (the second of four) on the Koke'e Master Plan. The consultant will present three alternatives for Koke'e for our review.

What does this mean for us?

We'll have an opportunity to review the report and to express our concerns so that they can be included in the Draft Master Plan.

Your Association's strategy over the years have been to partner with State Parks, to continue our long tradition of stewardship, and to help DLNR make more intelligent decisions for Koke'e.

Note: If the codes M2003 or A2003 do not appear on your mailing label, you have not yet paid your dues for the calendar year.

Please send your payment of \$25 (regular voting member – one per cabin) or \$10 (associate member) to our Treasurer,

Susan Stayton

P. O. Box 1113

Lawai, Kauai 96765-1113

For further information, please contact

Frank O. Hay 639.7704 or fhay@aloha.net

Written and edited by Frank O. Hay. Any errors or omissions are mine.