

The Galloping News from the Mountaintop – February 2005

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

Koke'e Coalition Formed

Kauai and all of Hawaii owes a large debt of gratitude to the entire Board of Land and Natural Resources, particularly Kauai's own Board member, Ron Agor, as well as Tim Johns, and Chairperson Peter Young. They listened intently and responded to the Kauai community.

On January 13th and 14th, the Board met on Kauai to hear public reaction to a Master Plan for the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. Although there was much to commend in the Plan, the proposed entry gate and the proposal to convert up to 30 cabins into vacation rentals drew considerable public opposition. In their comments following the public testimony, the Board proved that they are committed to preserving the cultural landscape of these magnificent parks.

Board member Tim Johns said: "... Koke'e is clearly a very special place. ... anyone who has hiked, camped, hunted, fished or done research up there or stayed in the cabins...realizes how special a place it is..."

Chair Peter Young explained that "... We're at a beginning stage of a process... we're going to go through further public review, further public meetings, further public input, further study about the issues... listed in the report...as well as the issues that were raised during the public testimony. So I view that as an opportunity for us to continue to hear from the community about the right thing to do...at Koke'e".

Kauai board member Ron Agor made several specific recommendations or amendments to the Plan to preserve Native Hawaiian gathering rights, to evaluate alternatives to the proposed entry gate and entry fees, and to work with the non-profit community and "consider them separately from individual cabin leases." He asked that "the staff and consultants to really take to heart the testimony [regarding the Koke'e leasehold cabins] ... and come up with a workable solution for everybody." Mr. Agor also said "We are far from this being a done

deal. Before us today is the draft master plan. It's just a draft...We have a long way...to go. We'll have more opportunities for public input."

We see the Board's action as a new beginning for Koke'e. We look forward to continuing as partners in the development of a plan that will meet the needs of the Kauai and Koke'e communities, for us all, our children and for generations to come.

Roselle Keli'ihonipua Bailey
Ka`Imi Na`auao O Hawai'i Nei

Rev. Jim Brooking
The West Kauai United Methodist Church

Pastor Rick Bundschuh
The Kauai Christian Fellowship

Marsha Erickson
Hui o Laka

Frank O. Hay
Koke'e Leaseholders Association

Lionel J. K. Kaohi
Kaumualii Hawaiian Civic Club

Barbara Rahmer
YWCA of Kauai

Hiroshi Tateishi
Koke'e Hongwanji Camp

Robert F. Westerman
West Kauai Business & Professional Association

Chipper Wichman
The National Tropical Botanical Garden

Kent K. Yamauchi
Kauai Hunting Association

Michael Yul
Camp Hale Koa, Seventh Day Adventist Church

Diane Zachary, The Parks Action Team,
Kauai Planning & Action Alliance

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These community organizations, representing several thousand members, sent the letter on our front page to Land Board Members Ron Agor and Peter Young, with copies to The Garden Island, State Parks staff, and the consultant on February 3rd. The coalition will meet prior to the next public meeting (**expected in late March**) to present a unified voice for our mountain community.

What will the coalition do? Actively work with the members of the Board of Land & Natural Resources, State Parks staff and the consultant, R. M. Towill Corporation, to help them make more far-sighted decisions to benefit all the people of Kauai.

The Lodge at Koke'e reopened under new management in July! Great new chefs Scotty Sagum and Patty Bradley will cater private dinners for four or forty in front of the fireplace



The new menu features fresh Kauai produce (organic when possible), island beef and poultry and fresh-caught fish – together with old favorites, including the Lodge's renowned Portuguese bean soup and cornbread. Call **Scotty** or **Patty** at 335.6061.

And soon open on Friday evenings for dinner!

What's happening on the mountain?

March 5, Saturday – Our next community workday. We'll help the YWCA meet the new EPA requirements for large capacity septic systems. We'll paint picnic tables throughout the Parks and do other projects both at Camp Sloggett and at Koke'e and Pu'u Ka Pele.

Meet at the Camp at 8.00 am – and even if you can't make the workday – no shame – come for lunch at the Camp beginning at 12.30 pm.

March 26, Saturday: Our Annual Meeting, followed by Dinner at The Lodge at Koke'e. The annual meeting will be at the CCC Camp, beginning at 5.00 pm. Dinner at The Lodge at Koke'e will follow at 6.30.

Your choice of a Steak Diane with garlic mashed potatoes or Capellini Pomodoro, angelhair pasta with fresh vegetables. Members only \$10, non-members \$20 – includes soup a la Patty and garden salad.

We're likely to sell out again, so **RSVP today** – call **Ellie Snyder at 332.7988** or email her at Ellie.Snyder@Rare-Dear.com

For further information, please contact Frank O. Hay 639.7704 or fhay@aloha.net