

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
115 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4906
FAX: (202) 225-4987

HAWAII OFFICE:
5104 PRINCE KUHIO FEDERAL BUILDING
HONOLULU, HI 96850-4974
(808) 541-1986
FAX: (808) 538-0233

NEIGHBOR ISLAND TOLL FREE NUMBERS:

BIG ISLAND	935-3756
KAUAI / NI'IHAU	245-1951
MAUI	242-1818
LANA'I	565-7199
MOLOKA'I	552-0160

ed.case@mail.house.gov
www.house.gov/case



CONGRESSMAN ED CASE
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

ISLANDS OF HAWAII, MAUI, KAHOLAWE, LANA'I,
MOLOKA'I, O'AHU (WINDWARD, NORTH SHORE,
CENTRAL, LEEWARD), KAUA'I AND NI'IHAU,
AND NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

August 24, 2006

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The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

I have received 160+ communications from our mutual constituents on Kauai who are expressing deep concern over the proposed management plan for Kokee and Waimea State Parks. People are afraid that they are going to lose forever the wilderness qualities that make these parks so special. The Kauai County Council has also expressed concerns about the proposed international auction of historic cabins, installation of helicopter pads, as well as several aspects of the plan that would expand commercial uses within the park.

Most of the concerns expressed by my constituents relate to fears that Kokee and Waimea are being developed to provide an enhanced experience for visitors who would come by the busload. They worry about traffic, noise, and degradation of the wilderness qualities of the area.

I think we need to be very careful before we do anything to change the character of Kokee and Waimea State Parks forever. I do believe that there are some places—especially wilderness areas—where large buses simply should not be allowed. Rather than redesign the roads to allow full-size buses to go to Kalalau lookout, we should consider limiting the types of vehicles that are allowed to use these roads. Full-size buses can go to Waimea lookout—Kalalau should be a different experience.

The overwhelming sentiment of those who wrote me was that while renovation and maintenance of existing facilities is needed, they do not want to see increased commercialization of the parks. These parks should not be developed as visitor destination areas but should be managed to protect their natural and historic resources and to provide nature immersion opportunities for residents and those visitors who are looking for a less commercial, more authentic opportunity to experience Hawaii's beauty.

With aloha,

Ed Case

ED CASE
United States Congressman
Hawaii, Second District