

**Friends of the Forest**  
***Koke'e Leaseholders Association***  
<http://www.malamaokee.org>

November 29, 2004

Ms. Lauren A. Tanaka  
Division of State Parks, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
PO Box 621  
Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii 96809-0621

Re: The Proposed Entry Gate to the Koke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks

Dear Lauren,

We continue to appreciate your offer to clarify certain matters contained in the Draft Master Plan. This is the fourth of several letters in response. The Plan proposes an entry gate to charge admission to the Parks. While we concur with the requirement for additional funding, such a proposal would help only these two parks in isolation at the cost of outraging local residents whose taxes – and our lease rents – already pay for them.

As the State Park system has suffered from a continual decline in staffing and funding, so clearly noted in the November 2004 issue of Environment Hawaii, we suggest considering funding the Parks as a whole. One reasonable source of revenue would be an increase in the Rental Car Vehicle Surcharge mandated by HRS §251, with the proceeds of such increase dedicated to State Parks. The marginal cost to implement is very low, and would place only a small additional burden on the major users of our Parks state wide.

The current surcharge for rental vehicles is \$3 a day, and \$15 and \$65 a month for vans and buses respectively. An increase of only a quarter a day would likely raise an additional \$2.6 million and an increase of only fifty cents a day would raise an additional \$5.5 million [see exhibit transmitted under separate cover]. This would help to alleviate the backlog of maintenance and repair in the Parks and to fund them at a level at which all Hawaii could be proud.

We would strongly support the Department's efforts in the next Legislature to this proposal. Please let us know how we can help.

Very truly yours,

*Original signed*

Frank O. Hay  
President

Cc: Ron Agor, AIA, Kauai Land Board Member (email only)  
Wayne Souza, Division of State Parks (email only)

**P. O. Box 1113**  
**Lawai, Kauai Hawaii 96765-1113**  
voice 1.808.639.7704 fax 1.808.332.5831

Proposal to Properly Fund State Parks

**Rental Motor Vehicle & Tour Vehicle Surcharge Tax**

Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 251

**Current law requires the following surcharges:**

Auto	\$	3.00	per day, or portion thereof
Van (8 to 25 pax)	\$	15.00	per month
Bus (over 25 pax)	\$	65.00	per month

**Taxes Collected, FY 2002**

Description	Amount collected
Rental motor vehicle	\$ 36,054,000

Source: Department of Taxation Annual Report, FY 2002

\*\* Note: Buses and vans not separately reported.

**Taxes Collected, FY 2003**

Description	Amount collected	Reported by Island	Subtotal
Total Collections	<b>39,586,827</b>	Oahu	37,920,767.96
Estimated proportion rental vehicle (other than buses and vans)	<b>80%</b>	Maui	229,702.86
		Hawaii	1,426,724.29
Subtotal attributable to rental cars	<b>31,669,461</b>	Kauai	9,531.50
Surcharge, per day	\$ 3.00		
Estimated days	10,556,487		<b>39,586,726.61</b>
Increase by \$0.25 per day	\$ 2,639,122	The new daily rate is	\$ 3.25
Increase by \$0.50 per day	\$ 5,278,244	The new daily rate is	\$ 3.50

Source 2003 Data: Department of Taxation - Linda Hirose 587.1450, Tu Duc Pham 587.1446

Estimate by Tu Duc Pham 11/18/04

**Notes:**

1. The surcharge for vans and buses could be increased proportionately
2. Reporting from larger or national firms is apparently centralized on Oahu.