



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2872 SD2 CD2

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 2872, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Lands" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Board of Land and Natural Resources to issue new twenty-year leases to existing lessees or permittees at locations in State parks or State forest reserves on islands with a population of less than 100,000. Although nominally cast in general terms, the bill has applicability only in State parks at Koke'e and Waimea Canyon on Kauai and was specifically tailored to that situation. Previous twenty-year leases there expired. The former lessees now occupy the premises pursuant to revocable permits.

I have received many petitions arguing that it is unfair for the previous lessees to monopolize the opportunity to lease these unique properties. I understand these concerns and have weighed them heavily in my deliberations on this measure. This bill recognizes that if the existing lessee does not accept the State's new market-based lease offer, the property should be auctioned with a preference given to those who are full-time residents of this state. As such, this bill attempts to balance the interests of the taxpayers, current lessees, and other interested parties.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2872 to become law as Act 223, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE