

State of Hawai'i  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of State Parks  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 24, 2003

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Approved by the Board of  
Land and Natural Resources  
at its meeting held on

1/24/03

**SUBJECT:** Revisions to the Nomenclature for the State Park System

State Parks are comprised of scenic, cultural, natural, and outdoor recreation resources of statewide or national significance that are set aside for public interest, visitation, and education. The diversity of the parks in our state park system is reflected in the variety of titles given to them, including state parks, state recreation areas, state monuments, state historical parks, state waysides, and state recreation piers. On November 5, 1965, the Board approved the "Criteria for Evaluating Areas Proposed for Inclusion in Hawaii's State Park System". The criteria used to classify the park units includes the kinds of park resources, the level of development that is appropriate, levels of public use and resource management, the interpretive opportunities, and the recreational potential.

The state park system has continued to grow and develop since its inception in 1949. Today, the state park system consists of 55 parks and 14 additional areas managed as part of the park system. Together, these parks encompass over 27,000 acres on five islands. The existing nomenclature for the parks and managed areas is as follows:

**State Historical Parks (SHP):** Areas established to preserve a complex of historical, cultural, or archaeological sites which are either unique or good examples for interpreting themes of statewide or national significance, such as Kealakekua Bay SHP, Hawai'i and Russian Fort Elizabeth SHP, Kaua'i.

**State Monuments (SM):** Natural and cultural features that illustrate Hawaii's unique geological or cultural history, such as Diamond Head SM, O'ahu and 'Iao Valley SM, Maui.

**State Parks (SP):** Areas with a diversity of resources, including outstanding scenic and natural features, historical and archaeological sites, and geological resources, such as Kōke'e SP, Kaua'i and Kekaha Kai SP, Hawai'i.

**State Recreation Areas (SRA):** Areas selected and developed to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, such as Hāpuna Beach SRA and Mālaekahana SRA.

**State Recreation Piers (SRP):** Piers adapted for recreational fishing, such as Ahukini SRP and Waimea SRP, Kaua'i.

**State Waysides (SW):** Areas along highways selected for their scenic or historic significance, such as Nu'uuanu Pali SW, O'ahu and Kaumahina SW, Maui.

**State Park Reserves (SPR):** Areas acquired and set aside for park purposes, but not currently developed or improved for public use, such as Kīholo SPR, Hawai'i.

In the case of several parks, their official designation has been enacted through legislation (Chapter 6E, HRS), such as 'Iolani Palace, Sand Island, Diamond Head State Monument, and the Kohala Historical Sites State Monument. In most cases, the park nomenclature is assigned by the Division of State Parks based on the 1965 criteria.

With the acquisition of new park areas and a re-evaluation of the existing park titles, several changes to the state parks nomenclature are proposed:

**State Historic Site:** Individual historic, cultural, or archaeological sites of statewide or national significance. This classification would be used for many of the *heiau* sites in the park system which are now classified as state monuments. This new title would be applied to Pu'u O Mahuka Heiau, Ulupō Heiau, and Kūkaniloko Birthstones, O'ahu; Haleki'i-Pihana Heiau, Maui; and Kukuipahu Heiau, Mo'okini Heiau, and Kamehameha Birthsite, Hawai'i. Based on their legislative designation, 'Iolani Palace and the Kohala Historical Sites will retain the State Monument title.

**State Scenic Shoreline:** Coastal areas set aside to preserve the scenic corridors and may include wildland and shoreline recreation opportunities, access to viewpoints, and historic/archaeological sites. This designation is proposed for Ka Iwi State Scenic Shoreline.

**State Wilderness Park:** Areas possessing a natural, primitive character without human habitation and offering passive wildland recreation, such as hiking and primitive camping. Wilderness parks should be of a large size so as to provide solitude in a natural setting and a sense of unconfined space. Wilderness parks tend to be remote with limited access and minimal park facilities for public health and safety, such as self-composting toilets. This new title would be applied to the proposed Honomalino-Mānuka State Wilderness Park in South Kona, Hawai'i and to Na Pali Coast, Kaua'i. A resolution was adopted by the Democratic Party at their convention in August 2002 which supports the creation of wilderness areas in the state park system and Pa'a Pono Miloli'i has encouraged this designation for the Honomalino-Mānuka area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

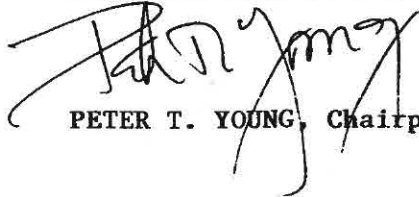
That the members of the Board approve a revised nomenclature for the state park system that would include the addition of State Historic Site, State Wilderness Park, and State Scenic Shoreline. These park designations will clarify the park values and recreational opportunities for park users.

Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL S. QUINN  
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson