



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 15, 2018

Alan S. Downer PhD
State Historic Preservation Division
601 Kamokila Boulevard
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

RE: Pali Lanes, 120 Hekili Street, Kailua, HI 96734
LOG NO:201800288
DOC NO: 1807CHO1

Dear Dr. Downer,

Pali Lanes is essential to the character and charm of Kailua. Kailua has changed so much in the past 20 years it is almost unrecognizable. Preserving the last standing mid-century modern structure, Pali Lanes, will help to preserve the history and culture of the Kailua community.

The building is an iconic example of the mid-century modern design; no other bowling alley with this look exists in Hawaii today. Built in 1961, it marked the suburbanization of Kailua and was the tallest structure in Kailua at the time. It marks the post-World War II era, when bowling popularity peaked. It represents a time of prosperity, leisure and the growing community. The flat roof, decorative iron railings, and Puna lava stone veneer from the 1955 Kapoho lava flow all are reminiscent of the times.

The value of the structure reaches beneath the surface; the Pali Lanes has a soul. It is a gathering place for the working-class locals, unlike the many other commercial spaces in Kailua that cater to tourist. Many, including myself, have many memories born from the Pali Lanes that will be destroyed with the demolition of the building. It continues to provide memories for locals, tourist and families today.

Preservation of the Pali Lanes structure reflects the values and wishes of the community.

Sincerely,

Senator Laura H. Thielen
District 25 - Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawaii Kai