



October 3, 2018

TO: Dr. Alan S. Downer, PhD and Members of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board
State Historic Preservation Division
Department of Land and Natural Resources
City & County of Honolulu

FROM: Alissa Carson
President, Docomomo US/Hawai'i Chapter

Hearing Date: Friday, October 5, 2018
State of Hawai'i Laboratories Division Auditorium
2725 Waimano Home Road, Pearl City, Hawai'i

VIA EMAIL: c/o Chandra Hirotsu, SHPD Secretary (Chandra.h.hirotsu@hawaii.gov)

SUBJECT: Pali Lanes
120 Hekili Street, Kailua Hawai'i
TMK: (1) 4-2-038:020

Dear Dr. Downer and Members of Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Docomomo US/Hawai'i Chapter (Docomomo Hawai'i). Docomomo US/Hawai'i Chapter is the local chapter of the National Docomomo US organization and is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The mission of Docomomo Hawai'i is to advance the understanding, preservation and documentation of the modern movement in the State of Hawai'i, with its unique location, physical conditions, social history and cultural characteristics.

As you know, much of Hawai'i's development occurred during the mid-century period from the end of World War II through the 1970s. This included Pali Lanes in Kailua. War, statehood, and the population boom changed Hawai'i forever - shaping our built environment and providing us with a uniquely modernist sense of place. But this sense of place is constantly threatened by economic pressures to rebuild bigger and taller. Obviously, we cannot save everything. Change is both inevitable and good. However, but we believe we should preserve our unique sense of place by retaining our best and most iconic examples.

Docomomo Hawai'i believes that Pali Lanes is an excellent candidate for the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places. Built in 1961, Pali Lanes is significant for many reasons. The architectural forms and use of local materials employed by architects Wimberly and Cook exhibit a deft combination of the structural experimentation of expressionism, the fun and futuristic space-age googie style, and the incorporation of Hawai'i regionalism. Pali Lanes is also one of the few remaining and operating bowling establishments on O'ahu. It hosts not only popular leagues, but also high school bowling teams,

the Special Olympics, and a myriad of charity and special events and parties. And perhaps most importantly, Pali Lanes remains a busy gathering place for local friends and family of all ages. Many Kailua residents, spanning three generations, have stories of bowling there, including Docomomo Hawai'i members.

Pali Lanes is an iconic community touchstone. The building, apart from its use as a gathering place, is one of the last intact, original vestiges of Kailua Town that is quickly being gentrified and transformed from a small, community to a tourist destination. Pali Lanes is now often used as a wayfinding marker because so much of Kailua has already undergone major changes, sometimes making long-time residents feel adrift in their own community.

Docomomo Hawai'i believes that Pali Lanes meets the requirements for listing on the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places. It is architecturally significant and retains its architectural integrity for its place in the development and social context of Kailua, and is a critical component of the Kailua sense of place.

We also believe this significant architectural asset **should not be demolished**, but rather incorporated into an overall plan for Kailua that takes both visitors and residents into account. Induction onto the Historic Register does not infringe on any of the private property rights of the owner, Alexander and Baldwin, and it would allow them to take advantage of preservation incentives available through county, state and federal government programs as well as apply for private grants and award programs geared to the restoration and preservation of significant buildings.

We hope that the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board agrees that this building deserves a place on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, and we also strongly encourage that Alexander and Baldwin to embrace the stewardship of this significant community resource and take advantage of the benefits of listing on the Register.

If it would help, Docomomo Hawai'i would be open to meet with the representatives of Alexander and Baldwin to further discuss the advantages of Register listing and possible alternatives to demolition.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Aloha,



Alissa Carson
President, Docomomo US/Hawai'i Chapter

Cc: Senator Laura H. Thielen District 25 (Kailua, Waimanalo, Hawai'i Kai)
Representative Cynthia Thielen 50th District (Kailua, Kāne'ōhe Bay)
Dr. Alan Downer, State Historic Preservation Officer DLNR
Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director Historic Hawai'i Foundation