State Historic Preservation Division:

re: Pali Lanes Nomination

Post World War II there was a blossoming of local businesses in Hawaii. One of the vestiges of that time in Kailua remains as the iconic Pali Lanes buildings and facilities.

Two architects, after their contribution to the war effort at Pearl Harbor, organized as Wimberly and Cook in Honolulu. Their designs of local motif began to appear throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Pali Lanes is one of the few still standing.

Wimberly and Cook’s emphasis on large arching roofs was again used at Pali Lanes, and was repeated in the large scalloped elevations along the Lanes’ entry landing and on the Pali Lanes tower, Kailua’s tallest building in 1961. The Puna lava rock applications featured on the exterior of the Lanes building and around its interior lobby was recovered from the 1955 Big Island lava flow.

The Pali Lanes property supports a magnificent stand of monkey pod trees. It was planted about 1971 and in its style and density represents nearly the last of its kind in Kailua Town.

Pali Lanes has thus grown to be a piece of Hawaii’s living history, an architectural timestamp of the post war era. And now proven to be a traditional, needed and stabilizing social influence for Kailua families.

Please help it to thrive, and continue to inform and enrich Hawaii’s future.

Robert Gratz.