

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Land Division
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 12, 2019

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

OAHU

SUBJECT: Requesting Approval for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to rename the Mauna Kea Recreation Area (aka Mauna Kea State Recreation Area) to the Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area, Mauna Kea Recreation Area, Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, Kahoe, IV, Hamakua, Island and State of Hawaii, Tax Māp Key: (3) 4-4-016: 003 (portion).

Requesting Approval to Authorize the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“BLNR” or “Board”) to negotiate, approve and execute any agreements as necessary with the County of Hawaii, for the name change.

APPLICANT:

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (“DLNR” and “State Parks”).

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Sections 171-11 and 184, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), as amended.

LOCATION:

Mauna Kea Recreation Area situated in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, Kahoe, IV, Hamakua, Island and State of Hawaii, Tax Map Key: (3) 4-4-016: 003 (portion).

AREA:

20.5 acres, more or less.

ZONING:

State Land Use District:	Conservation
County of Hawaii ZD:	Open

ITEM E-2

TRUST LAND STATUS:

Section 5(b) lands of the Hawaii Admission Act.

DHHL 30% entitlement lands pursuant to the Hawaii State Constitution: NO

CURRENT USE STATUS:

Park and forest reserve.

CHARACTER OF USE:

Recreation area managed and operated by the County of Hawaii.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Senate Concurrent Resolution 181 (“SCR 181”).
- B. Special Area Use Permit SUP No. FW 2014-01 (“FW 2014-01”).
- C. County of Hawaii letter dated June 25, 2014 (“Letter”).
- D. DLNR response letter dated July 3, 2014 (“Response”).

CHAPTER 343 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with Section 11-200-8, Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”), and the Exemption List for the Department of Land and Natural Resources approved by the Environmental Council and dated June 5, 2015, the subject request is exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to Exemption Class No. 6, Item 1:

Construction, placement or installation of signage, pavement markings, buoys, or other similar structures.

REMARKS:

SCR 181 requested DLNR to rename the Mauna Kea Recreation Area in the subject property to the “Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area”; and erect and maintain appropriate signage for this area.

The resolution provided a biographical profile of the late Senator Gilbert Kahele and described his connection with Mauna Kea Recreation Area, refer to Exhibit A. He was the Director of the Public Works Division of the adjacent Pohakuloa Training Area and an advocate for stewardship and improvement of facilities in the park. Gilbert Kahele demonstrated his professional and personal commitment to the residents of the island of Hawaii and their well-being. And as a State legislator, he was instrumental in the improvement of the park through the transfer of management to the County of Hawaii.

At its meeting on March 28, 2014, BLNR approved the management transfer of the park to the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii (“County”); and approved in concept the withdrawal of the park area from the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and set aside to the County for park purposes. In May 2014, DLNR issued FW 2014-01 (refer to Exhibit B) that allowed the County to make improvements and renovations of the facilities and utilities in the park. In June 2014, the County was concerned that the permit did not specifically address the activities that were needed for the improvements and sought clarification in the Letter (refer to Exhibit C). In July 2014, State Parks clarified in the Response that the permit was silent on the details and concurred with the activities proposed by the County which included renaming the “Mauna Kea State Recreation Area” to the “Mauna Kea Recreation Area” (refer to Exhibit D).

We believe that the request to rename the park to the Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area is consistent with the current operation and management of the park and the intention of its transfer to the County. Also, renaming of the park will provide distinction to a man who dedicated his life for the welfare of the residents of Hawaii and the betterment of Mauna Kea.

To this end, State Park staff will be working with County staff on the name change and coordinating signage design and installation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

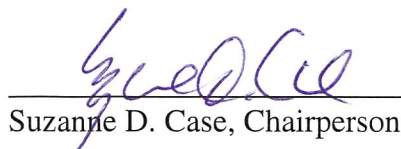
1. Approve the name change from the Mauna Kea Recreation Area to the Gilbert Kahele Recreation Area.
2. Authorize the Chairperson to finalize and execute any agreements, if necessary, for the completion of the name change and installation of the signage.

Respectfully Submitted,



Curt A. Cottrell,
Administrator, State Parks

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson

