Kaapahu Dedication
Saturday, August 21, 1999
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The acquisition of Kaapahu will ensure the preservation and access to unrivaled environmental and cultural resources for generations to come. Waterfalls, beautiful streams, taro loi and heiau – are all parts of Kaapahu.

I am proud to have played a small role in acquiring Kaapahu by requesting Congressional support for the $4.5 million necessary for its purchase.

I commend the efforts of the many individuals and organizations that have made this day possible.

I would like to recognize the Trust for Public Land which brokered this transaction. They purchased Kaapahu in 1998 and held it until the recent acquisition by the National Park Service. We are indebted to the Trust for Public Land which has protected over a million acres nationwide, and thousands of acres in Hawaii.

It was through the foresight of our predecessors that Haleakala was established as a national park in 1916, and with each addition of land, we reaffirm Haleakala National Park’s relationship with the surrounding aina and its commitment to the protection and preservation of such sacred lands.

I am committed to further enhancements to Haleakala National Park. I am pleased to share with you that the Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a request for another $1.5 million for additional land acquisitions for Haleakala National Park.

These new funds will contribute toward the acquisition of parcels in the upper and lower Kipahulu areas, and towards the acquisition of the Nuu property to further expand the park.

From the summit of Haleakala which reaches high into the clouds, to the lush valleys of Kaapahu with its free flowing streams and waterfalls, and home of the “King’s Highway” the path traveled by ancient Hawaiians – we are blessed. Blessed with true inspiring beauty and rare cultural artifacts.

The Haleakala National Park is the steward of our treasures, treasures we pass on to our children and grandchildren. This is a legacy, our collective legacy for the future.
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