

April 27, 2026

Aloha Chair Sugimura and members of the Budget Committee.

My name is DeGray Vanderbilt, I'm a former resident of Molokai and am now residing in Maui.

While on Molokai I was honored to serve as Chairman of the Molokai Planning Commission. I am currently serving as an officer and member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a 501c 3 non-profit organization conceived and fostered by the patient residents of Kalaupapa, who wanted an organization in place made up of the residents, their descendants and long-time friends of the Kalaupapa Community. The Kalaupapa residents wanted to make sure that even as their numbers grew smaller, their voices would continue to be heard and the dream they had for the future of Kalaupapa and the Kalaupapa Memorial would become reality and sustained in perpetuity.

This past Saturday I attended the funeral services of Francis Oda, a man who revolutionized the architectural industry in Hawaii. Over 400 people attended. Francis was 84 and born in November of 1941 the same day and month as me.

This was a man who himself designed the City of Kapolei. That's right he designed a whole city and yet when we asked him if his firm G70 could help with designing the Kalaupapa Memorial, he quickly jumped on Board and said he would be honored to help design such a tribute, which he acknowledged was such a long overdue tribute to approximately 8,000 individuals, (90% Native Hawaiian) who were taken from their families and sent to Kalaupapa giving up everything they loved and cherished for the benefit of Hawaii's greater society.

Attached is a picture of the dynamic design of the Memorial G70 produced that has been praised throughout the State. There are only about 1,000 marked graves of the nearly 8,000 who died at Kalaupapa. The Memorial will list the names of all those banished to Kalaupapa so that their names will not be lost to history and family members can visit the Memorial which will serve as a place of healing. One of the greatest accomplishments of Ka 'Ohana has been that we have reconnected more than 1,000 family members with their ancestors at Kalaupapa.

Today, I come before you to present two major support letters for the Kalaupapa Memorial and in support of Ka 'Ohana's ability to carry out our fundraising plan and establish the Memorial.

One is from Goodfellow Brothers who will be the construction contractor for the Memorial, which will be located directly across from St. Philomena Church and site of the original gravesite of Saint Damien. This site is where the Kalaupapa residents wanted the Memorial to be located.

Received at BFED meeting on 04/27/2026.

The other support letter is from the renowned Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF), that has been serving Hawaiian communities for over 106 years. Having their strong support has been a blessing.

I hope this additional information is helpful during your deliberations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify before you.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeGray Vanderbilt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted" text.

DeGray Vanderbilt

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degray.vanderbilt@gmail.com

GOODFELLOW BROS.



March 25, 2026

Goodfellow Bros. LLC
1300 N Holocono St., Suite. 201
Kihei, HI 96753

Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa

RE: Kalaupapa Memorial project

Dear Members of Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa,

Goodfellow Bros., LLC is honored to express our intent to serve as the contractor for the Kalaupapa Memorial project.

Our relationship with Kalaupapa spans more than three decades. Since the early 1990s, we have had the privilege of partnering with your community, beginning with repair and improvement work on streets and sidewalks throughout Kalaupapa. That history is something we take great pride in, and it reflects our long-standing commitment to the people and place.

We are especially proud to maintain a local presence through our Moloka'i office, which allows us to stay closely connected to the community and responsive to its needs. This local foundation, combined with our experience and resources, positions us to thoughtfully and respectfully support the vision of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

We approach this opportunity with deep respect for the significance of the project and the community it represents. Goodfellow Bros. stands ready and willing to be of service in any way we can, and we are committed to working collaboratively to help bring this meaningful project to life.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the continued partnership over the years.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

D5DFD8410B4A44A...

Zack Gonzales

Regional Manager – Maui County
Goodfellow Bros., LLC

Goodfellow Bros.

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April 20, 2026

Dr. Kenny Fink, Director
Hawai'i State Department of Health
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378

Aloha Director Fink,

I am writing to acknowledge that I have reviewed the fundraising plan developed by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in support of the Kalaupapa Memorial project. Based on my review, I support their efforts to secure the additional funding necessary to complete this important and long-overdue memorial.

I have personally witnessed this organization's unwavering commitment over many years, dating back to 2007 when Kalaupapa resident Kuulei Bell, the first President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, received an ovation for her passionate remarks about the desire for the Kalaupapa Memorial at the Native Hawaiian Convention. Among those on the stage with Kuulei was Senate President Colleen Hanabusa who pledged her support. Since that time, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has endured a long and often arduous journey to honor the lives of those who were forcibly removed from their communities and sent to Kalaupapa.

Through persistent advocacy, significant challenges, and even the loss of longtime board members, many of whom were former patients themselves, the organization has remained steadfast in its mission. Despite these hardships, they have not wavered in their commitment to ensure that the stories, sacrifices, and dignity of those who lived in Kalaupapa are properly remembered.

There is also a deep sense of *kuleana* that guides this work. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa carries the responsibility to fulfill the wishes of the residents who called for the creation of this memorial. While many of those residents have passed, a growing network of family members, descendants and friends of Kalaupapa have continued to honor their vision—carrying forward the dream of those who are no longer here to see it realized, and ensuring their legacy and sacrifices are never forgotten.

The fundraising plan reflects a thoughtful and multi-faceted approach, incorporating public, private, and philanthropic sources. It demonstrates both momentum and a clear strategy to close the remaining funding gap needed to realize this vision.



hawaiicomunityfoundation.org

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It is important to note that several of the anticipated funding commitments are contingent upon securing an executed lease for the memorial site. Progress on the lease is therefore directly tied to the organization's ability to fully realize these funding opportunities.

Honoring the lives of those who resided in Kalaupapa and acknowledging the sacrifices they endured is both necessary and long overdue. It should not be an endeavor met with continued delay. I believe Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has a credible and achievable path forward and continues to act with integrity, perseverance, and deep respect for those they seek to honor.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Kauhane".

Michelle Kauhane

Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President



April 24, 2026

Dr. Kenneth Fink, Director
Hawai'i State Department of Health, Ka 'Oihana Olakino
PO Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801-3378

Aloha Dr. Fink,

Mahalo to you and your staff for continuing to work with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa on the distribution of \$5 million unanimously approved by the State Legislature in the Spring of 2022 and signed into law by Governor David Ige.

We are attaching an update of our Fundraising Plan to raise additional funds needed for the Kalaupapa Memorial. We realize that everyone – including the Department of Health – is facing higher costs to projects due to inflation and other uncertainties.

Our Board of Directors is confident we can raise the additional funds by the time of the dedication of the Memorial that we hope takes place in October 2028. We are actively pursuing three opportunities for large donations and will be reaching out to other potential donors in the next several months. The level of excitement around the Memorial brings joy to our work.

Because we do not know who will be reading this report, we have included additional information to provide more of a background of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to demonstrate our 22+ years of raising the necessary funds to support the many programs and projects our nonprofit has developed to help the families of Kalaupapa, schools and the general public.

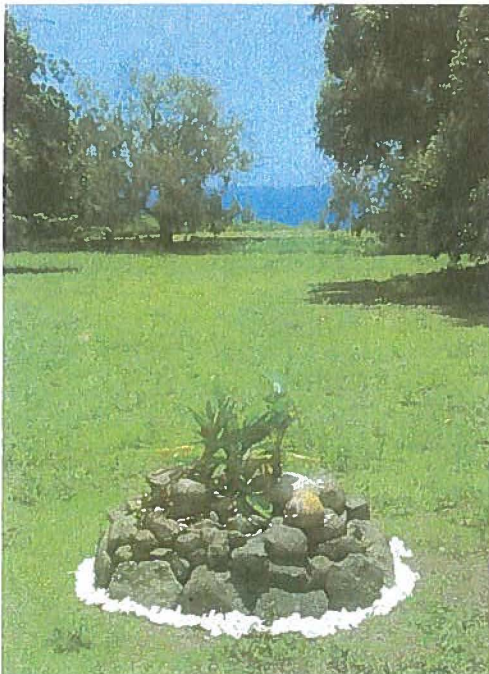
We are also including a letter from Hawai'i Community Foundation supporting our fundraising plan and a letter from Goodfellow Bros., the contractor that has agreed to build the Memorial.

We appreciate the Department of Health working with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to bring the Memorial to life.

Mahalo nui loa,

Valerie Monson, Executive Director

KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL DESIGN



MEMORIAL VIEW PLAIN

Ahu pictured at left marks the spot where the makai and mauka circles of the Memorial intersect.

From this sacred area family members and visitors will be able to look out over the field of 2,000 unmarked graves to the Pacific Ocean and also gain a glimpse of St. Philomena Church and Father Damien's original grave just off to the left outside of photo