

January 23, 2026

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MEMO TO: KA‘Ā-1(11)

F R O M: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair *KRF*
Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENTS RELATING
TO KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL MONUMENT**
(KA‘Ā-1(11))

The attached informational documents pertain to Item 1(11) on the Committee's agenda.

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Attachments

Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa



*"E Ho'ohano hano a E Ho'omau...
... To Honor and To Perpetuate"*



20 Years of Paving a New Path

2003–2023



"To look out over this room and see my Kalaupapa 'ohana surrounded by so many family members and friends makes my heart feel good."

Above: A crowd of Kalaupapa residents, family members and friends filled McVeigh Hall at Kalaupapa on August 4, 2023, to establish Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Photo: Wayne Levin

Below: The Circle of Remembrance, where those in attendance speak aloud the names of family members and friends who have died at Kalaupapa, has become an emotional tradition at Ka 'Ohana gatherings. Photo: Henry G. Law

Those words were spoken by Kalaupapa leader Bernard K. Punikai'a as he opened the two-day workshop held in August of 2003 with 70 Kalaupapa residents, family members and friends filling McVeigh Hall. The meeting ended with all in attendance supporting the establishment of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa as a nonprofit organization dedicated to remembering and honoring each of the nearly 8,000 men, women and children who were taken from their families and mostly relocated to Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy.

Continued on page 3

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
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President

Pauline Ahulau Chow
Vice President

DeGray Vanderbilt
Secretary

Gloria Marks
Director

Sister Davilyn Ah Chick
Director

Lorna Catalani
Director

Kehaulani Lum
Director

Monica Lee Loy Morris
Director

Valerie Monson
Executive Director

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard K. Punikai'a
Chairman of the Board, 2004-2009

Kuulei Bell
President, 2004-2009

Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa
President, 2009-2021

Our masthead was designed
by Kalaupapa artist
Henry Nalaielua.

Newsletter editor:
Valerie Monson

Design:
Yellowbird Graphic Design

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A Message from Our President



Ka 'Ohana President
Charmaine Woodward
took her father,
Aaron Wong, and
brother, Puka Wong, to
Kalaupapa recently to
learn more about the
family history.

Photo: Valerie Monson

In 1866, the first 12 patients along with one child and some kōkua were isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula with no access to medical care. They were mostly cared for by the kama'āina—the Hawaiians who inhabited the land before isolation was ordered. After those initial 12 patients, nearly 8,000 more were sent to Kalaupapa, most of them for the rest of their lives.

The work, the love, the purpose of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa over the last 20 years has been to honor and to perpetuate the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa who through their hardships built their own 'ohana by helping one another, accepting one another, finding strength in their adversity and creating solutions to provide care for one another.

Recently, I went back to Kalaupapa, the first time in four years, bringing along my 76-year-old father and my brother for their first visit. As a young boy, my father's life was forever changed because his grandparents, David Kamahana and Alana Ahlo, were forced to isolation there. My tūtū kāne and my tūtū wahine had nine children, including my father's mother, Maihui Kamahana.

Maihui Kamahana was born in Kalaupapa in 1915 and spent 16 years in an

orphanage with some of her brothers and sisters. I am sure she struggled through her own form of isolation from her parents. She died when my father, Aaron Wong, was 12 years old—he, too, endured separation from a very young age.

During our visit to Kalaupapa's sacred grounds, my father, brother and I felt the love of our 'ohana, their presence all around us, and for the first time, I saw my father happy and at peace. I don't know what healing powers Kalaupapa has that surrounds its people, but it's very special. At 42 years old, I am the first generation that was not forced to isolate from my parents or my sons and I am thankful for the sacrifice, perseverance, and unwavering aloha. Generations before me set the foundation, did the hard work so we could be who we are today. It is the work of our generation to honor those who have gone before us so more 'ohana can heal and continue the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa.

Aloha nui,

Charmaine Woodward, President

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa: 20 Years of Paving a New Path



Kuulei Bell was elected President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2003. Kuulei was the longtime manager of the Kalaupapa Post Office.



Winifred Harada, who still lives at Kalaupapa, was Vice President. For years, Winnie supervised the Kalaupapa Visitors Quarters.



Continued from page 1

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was the idea of Bernard, the brilliant trailblazer who never failed to stand up for the people of Kalaupapa.

Bernard felt it was essential to bring together family members and friends to join the Kalaupapa residents to perpetuate their history and to make sure the future of the peninsula was as they intended. Bernard feared that as the people of Kalaupapa were getting older and their numbers were getting smaller, that their voices would no longer be heard and that Kalaupapa's future would be directed solely by newcomers who would not know what residents had envisioned.

The residents of Kalaupapa embraced Bernard's idea and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was born. Bernard was appointed Chairman of the Board and other Kalaupapa leaders were elected as officers and Directors: Kuulei Bell, President; Winnie Harada, Vice President; Gloria Marks, Treasurer; Makia Malo, Director and Boogie Kahilihiwa, Director. Family members and longtime friends made up the rest of the Board.

The accomplishments of our 'Ohana over the years are too many to squeeze into these pages: reaching out to more than 900 descendants and helping them learn about their Kalaupapa ancestors; planning the Kalaupapa Memorial that will list the names of all those who were admitted to Kalaupapa from 1866-1969; compiling the names for the Memorial; developing two traveling exhibits that have appeared on every island; establishing Kalaupapa Month every January; producing books, a virtual concert, webinars, booklets and brochures; making presentations to schools, museums and public organizations upon request... and more.

The work of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been recognized across the islands and beyond. Historic Hawai'i Foundation has presented seven preservation awards to Ka 'Ohana for outstanding programs and projects.

Bernard Punikai'a and most of our early Kalaupapa leaders have now died, but their dream lives on in their descendants and friends who carry forth the mission.



(Top photo) Gloria Marks was our first Treasurer who continues to serve on the Board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Gloria was a longtime businesswoman and Chair of the Kalaupapa Patients Advisory Council.

(Bottom photo) Bernard K. Punikai'a was named Chairman of the Board of Ka 'Ohana. Bernard was one of the great leaders of Kalaupapa — and Hawai'i. He was most well-known for leading the Save Hale Mohalu Movement from 1978-1983 where Kalaupapa residents refused to leave a beloved residential treatment facility on Oahu that the State of Hawai'i wanted to close.

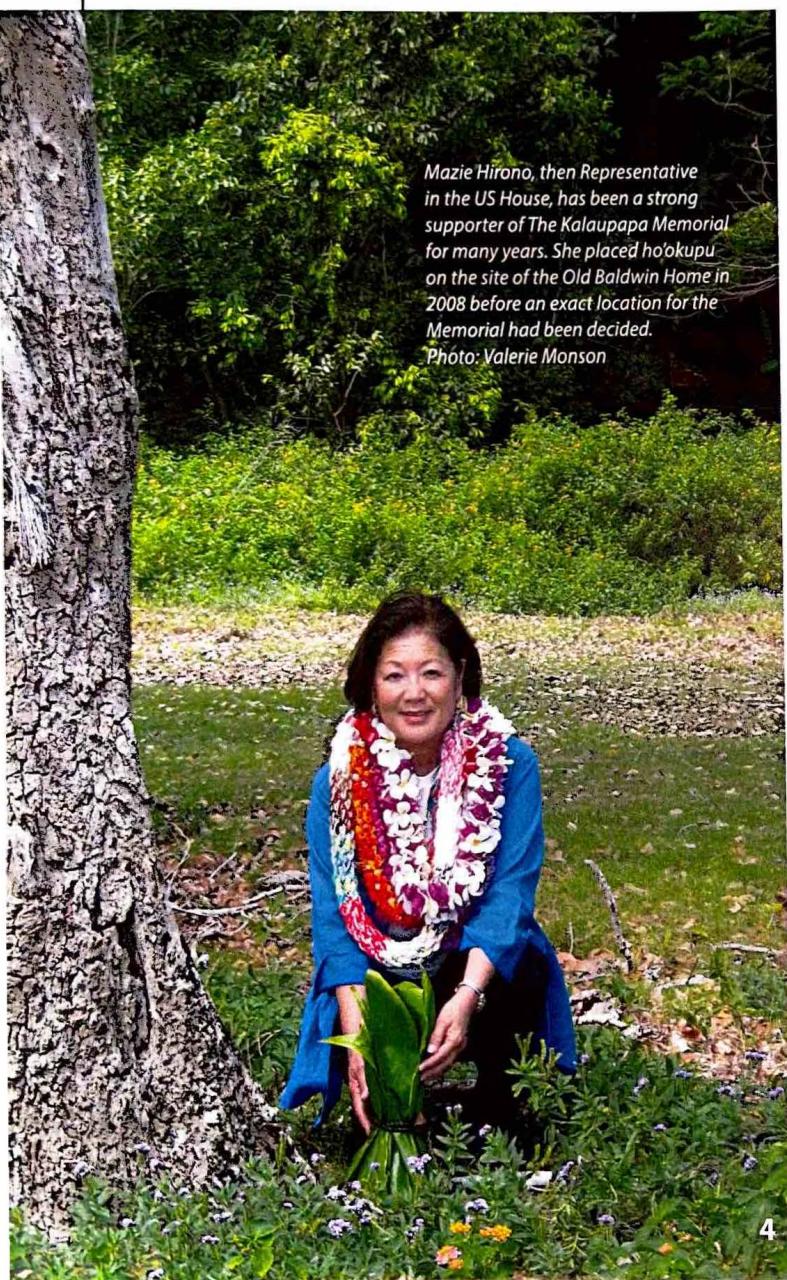
All photos: Wayne Levin

Mahalo to our donors and funders: your support made all of our programs possible!

2003–2008: Our Kupuna Lead the Way

The first five years of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa were surprisingly productive—and inspiring. No baby steps for our 'Ohana! We were off and running from the start behind our strong leadership of Kalaupapa kupuna who served as Board Officers and Directors.

At the organizational meeting, the Kalaupapa residents asked that their longtime dream of building a Memorial at Kalaupapa be a priority of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Because the National Park Service did not support the Memorial, Ka 'Ohana sought the help of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation — all of whom responded with enthusiasm. Congressman Ed Case, whose district at the time included Kalaupapa, introduced the Kalaupapa Memorial Act in 2005.



Mazie Hirono, then Representative in the US House, has been a strong supporter of The Kalaupapa Memorial for many years. She placed hōokupu on the site of the Old Baldwin Home in 2008 before an exact location for the Memorial had been decided.

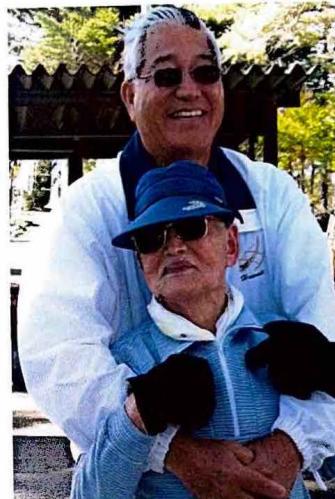
Photo: Valerie Monson

When Case left his seat, Mazie Hirono was elected to succeed him. Congresswoman Hirono became the Memorial's champion, quickly guiding it to pass the US House unanimously in 2008.

Editorials of support appeared in the local press — and even earned an endorsement from The Sunday New York Times, showing how the Kalaupapa Memorial resonates with people far from our shores.



The Honolulu Advertiser reported on the first Congressional hearing of the Kalaupapa Memorial Act in 2006. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa leader Pi'olani Motta testified at the hearing.



Taka Harada (in back) was part of a visit to Japan by leaders of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa where they met residents there who had been isolated because of leprosy, including Sanshiro Fujita. Photo: Valerie Manson

Photo: Valerie Monson



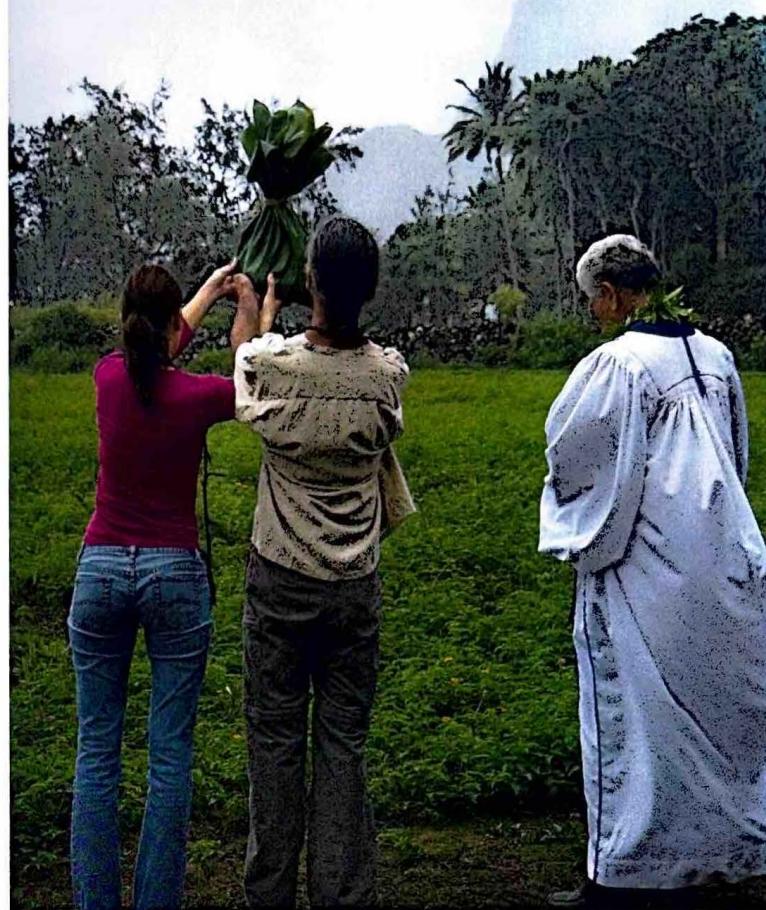
Reconnecting descendants to their Kalaupapa ancestors has always been a priority of Ka 'Ohana. David and Chris Mahelona have information on a number of their extended 'ohana who were sent to Kalaupapa, but have found no marked graves. They find comfort knowing the names of all their ancestors will be displayed on The Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Wayne Levin

In 2007, 'Ohana President Kuulei Bell and descendant Pi'olani Motta spoke passionately about the Memorial to a plenary conference of 500 at the annual Native Hawaiian convention. Descendants in the audience began standing up spontaneously to announce "I had family at Kalaupapa" . . . "I had an ancestor at Kalaupapa," . . . "My grandmother was at Kalaupapa." There was unanimous support for the Memorial.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa historian Anwei Law began the tall task of compiling the names for Ka 'Ohana. When the first newspaper article appeared about Anwei's work, Ka 'Ohana began hearing from family members wondering if their relatives were among the names.



Makia Malo, long-time Board Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, offers his mana'o. With him is Monica Bacon, whose ancestors were at Kalaupapa.
Photo: Wayne Levin



Napua and Timmy Leong, both descendants of Kalaupapa, present ho'okupu during a Remembrance Ceremony at Kalawao during the 2008 annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. The Rev. David Kaupu offered the blessing.
Photo: Wayne Levin



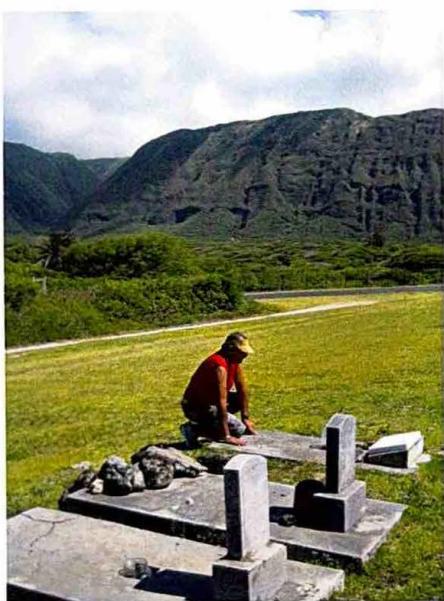
Pi'olani Motta and Ka'iulani Hess, who both had family at Kalaupapa, look over the Kalaupapa Admissions Register at the Hawai'i State Archives that contains the names of the first 5,000 individuals who were taken from their families and sent to Kalaupapa. Photo: Patrick Downes



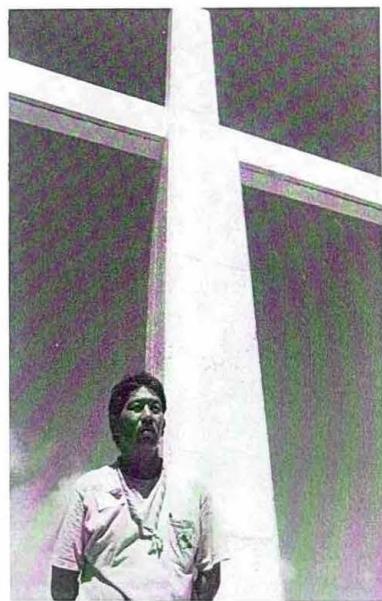
Following the Remembrance Ceremony (top photo), Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa celebrated its Fifth Anniversary with a luau for the entire Kalaupapa community. The singer Makana provided entertainment. Photo: Wayne Levin



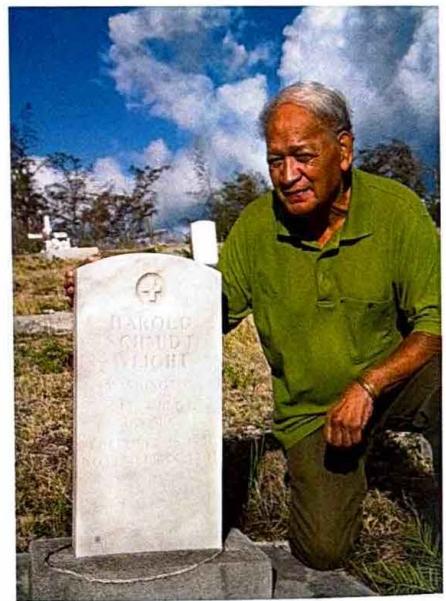
Emma Kamahana Dickerson (front) brought her daughters and a granddaughter with her to Kalaupapa to feel their family roots. Kalaupapa resident Danny Hashimoto joined them. Photo: Wayne Levin



Phil Hatori places his hands on the stone of Henry Hatori, an ancestor Phil had learned about only recently before visiting Kalaupapa with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson



Wesley Hori stands in front of the iconic Cross at the Kalaupapa crater that was conceived by his grandfather, Henry Shinichi Hori. Photo: Wayne Levin



Ed Weight kneels at the tombstone of his father, Harold Weight. Until he contacted Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, Ed had never seen a photo of his mother who is believed buried next to his father. Photo: Wayne Levin

2009–2013: Restoring Family Ties



President Barack Obama signs the omnibus bill that contained The Kalaupapa Memorial Act on March 30, 2009. The bill had earlier unanimously passed both the US House and Senate.

Photo: Special to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa from The White House

The people who were sent to Kalaupapa were taken from nearly every community across the islands. Most of them never saw their loved ones again.

After President Barack Obama signed the Kalaupapa Memorial Act into law in 2009, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa focused on carrying the stories of the people back to the lands of their birth. Ka 'Ohana developed two traveling exhibits: a historical exhibit based on the strong relationship between the ali'i and the people of Kalaupapa along with a photo exhibit of portraits of the people of Kalaupapa and family members.

The exhibits have appeared on every island at least once. Books were written. The Kamehameha Schools 5th grade students created and performed a play about Kalaupapa — and raised more than \$2,000 for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

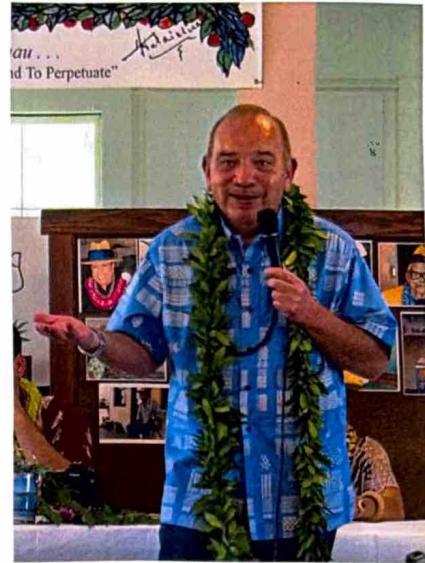
More and more families reached out to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in search of information about their ancestors and we began our family visitation program, helping descendants walk in the footsteps of their ancestors to find healing and answers. The Memorial

reached another milestone when an approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources resulted in a 65-year lease in principle to Ka 'Ohana.

We also experienced great sadness and enormous loss with the deaths of Bernard Punikai'a, the father of the 'Ohana, and Kuulei Bell, our first President. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was reeling and wondering if we had a future. We found that future in Board Member Boogie Kahilihiwa who was elected President and evolved into a powerful leader whose passionate testimonies about the importance of the Memorial moved every official who heard him.



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa President Boogie Kahilihiwa (top) surrounded by 5th grade students of Kamehameha Schools who participated in a play about Kalaupapa. Photo: Mara Bacon Chang



Former Governor John Waihe'e recalled his long friendship with Kalaupapa leader Bernard Punikai'a and other residents during the 10th anniversary celebration of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.

Photo: Henry G. Law



Wiliama Namahoe breaks down as he falls upon the tombstone of his great-grandmother, Kawaikoeahiokekuahiwi Wong-Ho Kahoukapu, ending his decades-long search for her. Photo: Valerie Monson



During the first gathering of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2003, the residents in attendance made it clear that they wanted everyone who had been sent to Kalaupapa to be remembered. It was essential that their history, their stories and their names be passed down to future generations.



Top left: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa President Boogie Kahilihiwa receives a gift of lei from descendant Momilani Motta Cheek during a Remembrance Ceremony at the future site of The Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Henry G. Law

Left: The Kamehameha Schools Concert Glee Club, hosted by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2015, performs for the Kalaupapa community at Paschoal Hall. Photo: DeGray Vanderbilt



Kalaupapa resident John Arruda (right) and Taka Harada, whose brother was at Kalaupapa, lead a discussion at Kaua'i Community College. Photo: Valerie Monson



Valerie Monson, Executive Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, presents a narrated slide show about Kalaupapa for students at 'Iolani School in conjunction with the traveling exhibit created by Ka 'Ohana, "A Source of Light, Constant and Never-Fading." This was part of Ka 'Ohana's Schools Outreach Program. Photo: Tennyne Cabrera

Connecting the Past to the Future

Those family members and friends who were part of that inaugural workshop heard those words and began putting them into action, continuing to pass the knowledge on to future generations.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will forever remember the names of the people of Kalaupapa. The planning and architectural firm of G70 International in Honolulu worked with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to develop an elegant design and more approvals were granted by the Land Board and State Land Use Commission.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa increased our efforts in visiting schools, helping families learn more about their ancestors, hosting families and school groups at Kalaupapa on a limited basis and finding a permanent home for our photo exhibit at the ideal location: the Molokai Museum & Cultural Center.

By passing on the knowledge of Kalaupapa, the people will be remembered and generations to come will be inspired.



Robert Ho'opi'i (second from left) with sons Lopaka and Kauhi and grandson Lokahi (far right) on the porch of the home of Robert's father, Alexander Ho'opi'i. Photo: Wayne Levin



To share the story of Kalaupapa and the people with the greater public, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized 100 framed photos by acclaimed photographer Wayne Levin and created the exhibit, "A Reflection of Kalaupapa: Past, Present and Future." The exhibit, shown here at Kaua'i Community College, has visited all the islands and is now on permanent display at The Molokai Museum & Cultural Center. Photo: Wayne Levin

2019–2023: Cementing Our



Governor Josh Green (second from left) and Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen (left) joined the Belgians and others for the Circle of Remembrance. Also: Brooke Wilson and Cameron Deptula, both of the Governor's staff, and Robert Mondoy, liturgical musician and choir director. Photo: Courtesy Damiana Museum

A group from Belgium, home of Saint Damien, visited Kalaupapa with the help of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, the Sisters of St. Francis and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. The Belgians took part in a Circle of Remembrance ceremony.

Photo: Courtesy Damiana Museum

Like the rest of the world, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa had to adjust to the impacts of Covid 19. How could we stay in touch and keep sharing the history during a time of being kept apart? We learned to connect in other ways: through online presentations and

electronic communications that could reach across the globe.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa produced a virtual concert about the healing power of music throughout the settlement's history. We began a series of webinars about the history and the people. You can



To keep our work going despite Covid restrictions, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa began a series of webinars that will continue into 2024. Above: Bernice Pupule and Francis Palea show the joy of music. Photo: Courtesy Hale Mohalu 'Ohana



Leaders of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa gathered on Oahu and invited the 'Ohana of the future: young family members. Photo: Solomon Woodward

Legacy, New Ways to Reach Out



In 2021, the Hawai'i State Legislature unanimously adopted a proposal submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to designate every January as Kalaupapa Month across the islands. Governor David Ige signed the bill into law. Photo: Greg Lau

find them at no charge on our website: www.kalaupapaohana.org.

We worked with the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2021 to designate January annually as Kalaupapa Month. Last year, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million to build the Kalaupapa Memorial. Both bills were signed into law by Governor David Ige.

With restrictions lifting, a group of Belgians visited Kalaupapa for four days in October, 2023, where various leaders signed a Commitment Statement to work together, including Governor Josh Green, Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen, Tremelo Mayor Bert DeWitt and other Tremelo city and museum officials along with Ka

'Ohana O Kalaupapa and leaders of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu.

We also suffered another devastating loss with the death of our longtime President Boogie Kahilihiwa in 2021. His wife of 43 years, Ivy, died two years later. We carry them on in our hearts.

Yours Faithfully - Ambrose Hutchison

Recollections of a Lifetime at Kalaupapa

Based on the Memoirs & Other Writings of
Ambrose Kanewailii Hutchison



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa published the memoirs of unsung hero Ambrose Hutchison, edited by Ka 'Ohana historian Anwei Law. Books cost \$50 each and can be ordered by emailing info.kalaupapa@gmail.com



There is no marked tombstone for Manuel DeCosta so his family left their lei at an unmarked grave. From left: Terry Crowell, Carol Shinagawa and Dale Estes. Photo: Valerie Monson

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau. . .

... To Honor and To Perpetuate"

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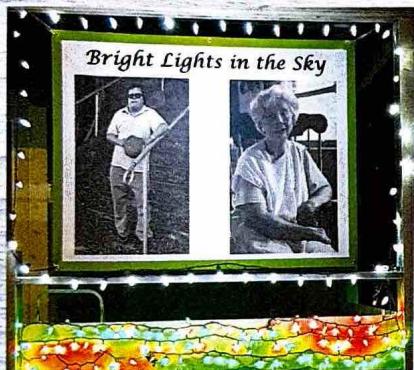
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Forever Cherishing our
Kalaupapa Kupuna

Merry Christmas from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's Christmas decorations features a tribute to the two previous occupants of the house assigned to us: Bernard Punikai'a and Alice Kamaka. Bernard's Hawaiian name, Ka'owakaokalani, means "Bright Light in the Sky," a perfect message for this season of light and hope.

Photo: Valerie Monson

Support Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations from supporters like you to enable our programs to grow. Your tax-deductible contributions will help us reconnect more descendants to their Kalaupapa ancestors, continue and expand our educational programs, establish the Kalaupapa Memorial and more. Please consider a donation to the 'Ohana.

Mahalo in advance.

Send your donations to:

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

PO Box 1111

Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742

Or donate by visiting our 'Ohana website

www.kalaupapaohana.org

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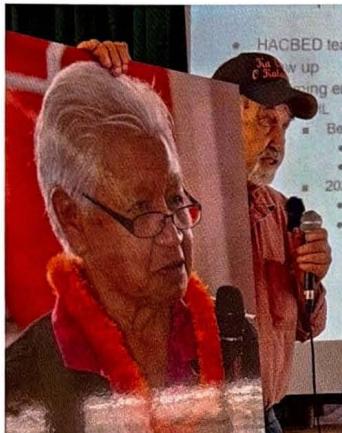
Mahalo to GOG Hawaii Foundation for their generous support with the production costs of this newsletter.





The Future of Kalaupapa

Will the Voices of the People Finally Be Heard?



DeGray Vanderbilt, a Board Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, addresses an "informational briefing" by government agencies held in Kaunakakai recently about plans for Kalaupapa while holding a photo of the late Pauline Chow, longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana. Vanderbilt said the public has not been included in the years of planning for the future of Kalaupapa.

Photo: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



Over the past 21 years, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has held regular meetings to talk about various issues, including the future of Kalaupapa. All events open with pule to help everyone approach the discussions with aloha and respect for one another. Photo: Wayne Levin

In the mid-1990s, Kalaupapa leader Bernard K. Punikai'a was worried: what would the future of Kalaupapa look like when there were no longer any residents (patients) still living? Who would be planning the future? Who would be making the decisions?

Bernard's concern about the future was the driving force to form Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. It was Bernard's vision that family members and longtime friends join with Kalaupapa residents to make sure the future was planned as the residents wished, that their voices would be heard. Bernard's greatest fear was that the future of Kalaupapa would be shaped by newcomers who had little or no understanding of the history or the people.

Could Bernard's biggest fear become reality?

Continued on page 10

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President, 2009-2021

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Vice President, 2008-2024

Our masthead was designed
by Kalaupapa artist
Henry Nalaielua.

Newsletter editor:
Valerie Monson

Design:
Yellowbird Graphic Design

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Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa President Charmaine Woodward and Vice President Pauline Ahulau Chow feed Pauline's cats at her home in Kalaupapa in this photo from 2019. Photo: Valerie Monson

In less than a month, our 'Ohana went from laughter and singing to loss and sorrow. On August 25, as the final event of our four-day tribute to Queen Kapi'olani, we gathered outside the Kalaupapa Care Home to celebrate the upcoming 90th birthday of Pauline Chow, our dear friend and longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Four weeks later, we learned she had died. I am writing this column with a broken heart—and a growing sense of urgency: we must inspire more descendants to join our 'Ohana to carry on the legacies of our kūpuna.

Fifteen years ago was the first time I set foot in Kalaupapa. There were still 20 residents living in Kalaupapa town; it was a different community. I sat and learned from them all, listening to their stories and hearing stories about my own tūtū Kamahana. When I joined the Board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa a year later, Aunty Pauline became my "shoulder" partner who I usually sat next to during our meetings.

With Pauline's passing, we have just seven residents remaining who have the right to live at Kalaupapa—four of them live in the settlement.

There is so much to do at Kalaupapa—not only now, but far into the future. I think of the stirring words of "E Na Kini" by Kalaupapa musician Ernest Kala:

"E nā kini o ka 'āina e ala mai, a e ala pū. E nā mamo o Hawai'i nei e ala mai, (a e ala pū)."

"Oh people of the land rise up, and rise up, Oh Hawaiian descendants rise up (and rise up together)."

Our Kalaupapa community will soon change forever. The voices and legacy of our kūpuna will be carried on and echoed by each of us, the people of the land, their descendants.

Our time to rise up and take action is now tasked with building 'ike on the imminent future of the sacred places of Kalawao, Makanalua, and Kalaupapa. Know your history, share your stories, attend meetings and make the voices of our ancestors known. Let's hui together to perpetuate and honor the legacy of our kūpuna, who have gone before us so more 'ohana can heal and continue the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa.

Aloha nō,

Charmaine Woodward, President

Aloha 'Oe to a much-loved kūpuna

PAULINE AHULAU CHOW, a strong Hawaiian wahine and the longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, died September 22, 2024, less than a month after her 90th birthday.

The 'Ohana Board paid tribute to Pauline at their next meeting. Director Sister Davilyn Ah Chick offered thanks to God.

"Thank you very much for Pauline's life and all the years she was part of our Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors and all the years she willingly shared her many God-given talents and abilities," said Sister Davilyn.

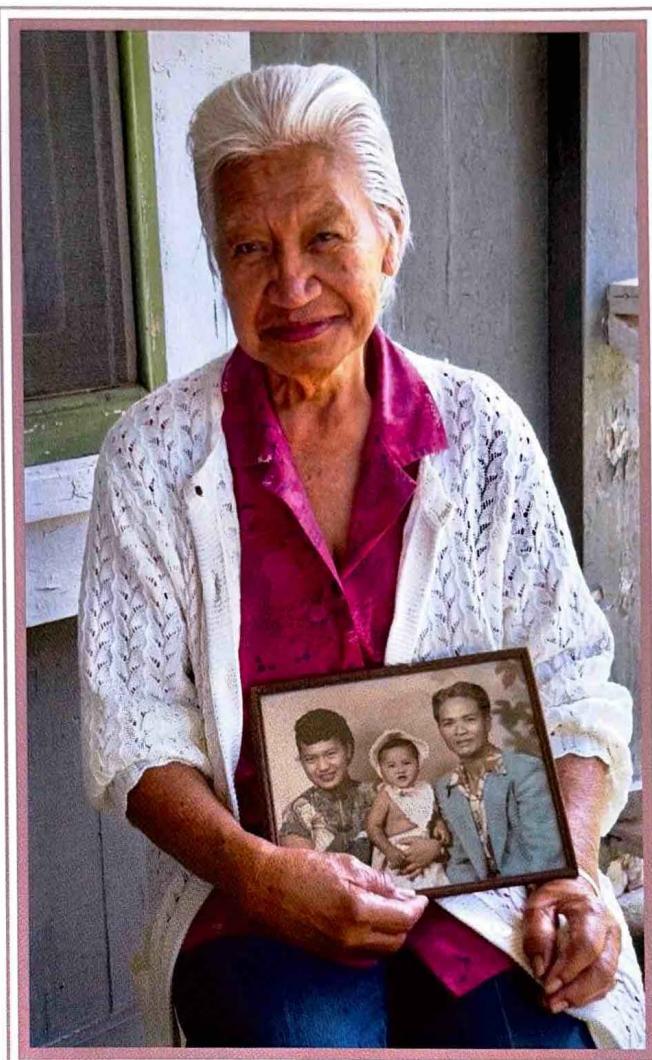
Pauline grew up on Hawai'i Island. Adventurous and brave, she landed a job before she was 25 that took her across the US Mainland and to Puerto Rico.

But she also experienced more than her share of sadness. Both parents died by the time she was 5 years old, and her three sisters were—one by one—diagnosed with leprosy and taken away, all of them eventually going to Kalaupapa.

Pauline realized that she had the disease in 1960 and willingly went to Hale Mohalu. There she met George Chow, her future husband. They transferred to Kalaupapa where Pauline became known for her love of music—she was called the Juke Box of Kalaupapa—and her love of words which made her a fierce Scrabble player.

A devout Catholic, Pauline was selected in 2012 as the only Kalaupapa resident to receive Holy Communion from Pope Benedict during the canonization ceremonies for Mother Marianne Cope in Rome.

Pauline was proud of her heritage and loved to share her knowledge of Hawaiian history, culture and language. Debbie Collard, a former nurse at Kalaupapa, was greatly influenced by her time with Pauline.

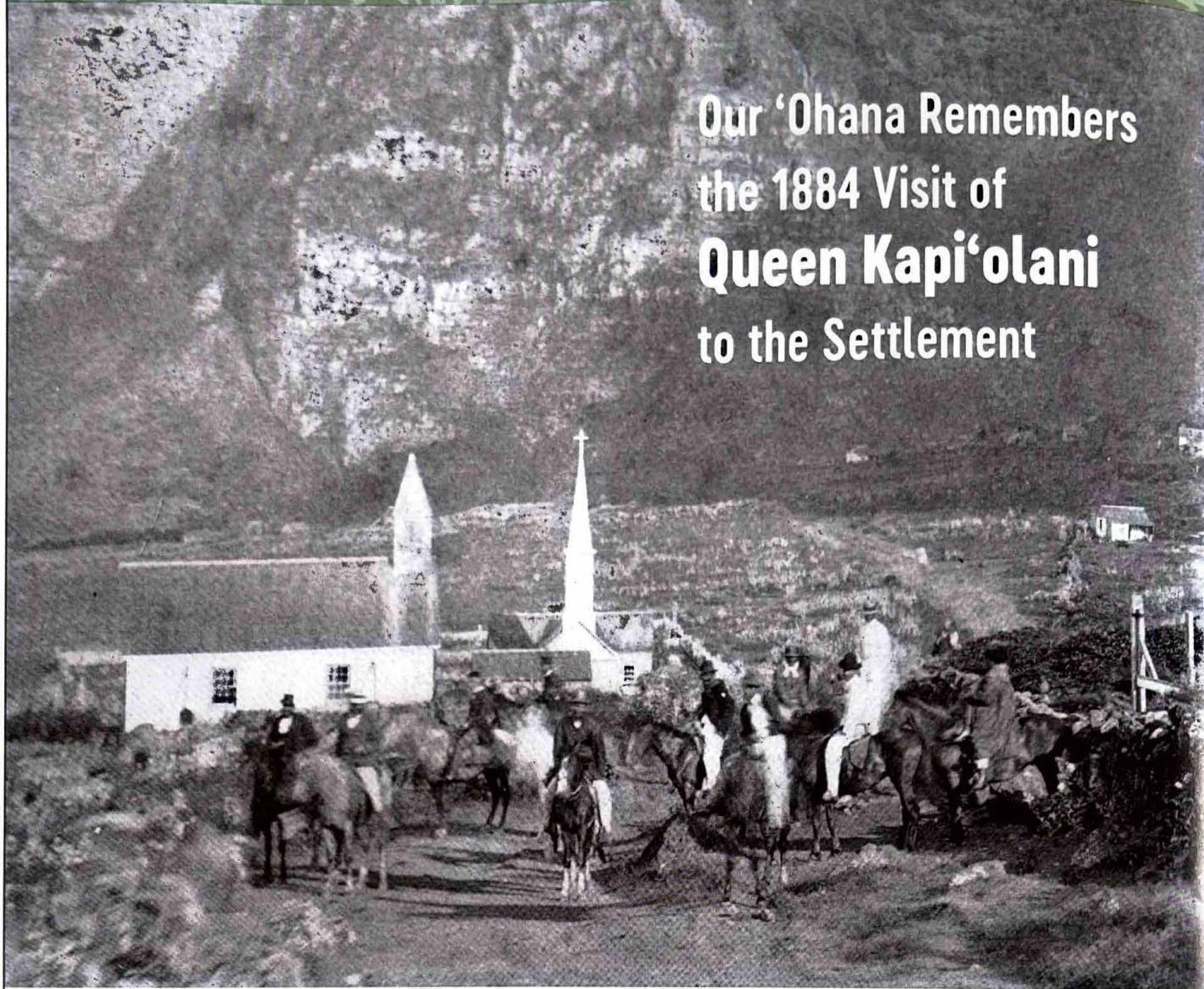


Pauline Ahulau Chow sits on the porch of her Kalaupapa home in this 2014 photo, holding a picture that she always kept on display in her living room of her sister, Frances Galarse, with Frances' husband, Januario Galarse, and Gwen, the niece of Frances and Pauline. Photo: Wayne Levin

"Pauline gave me a true appreciation of what it meant to be Hawaiian," recalled Debbie. "She knew I was *hapa*—as she would say—but made me proud of where I came from and made me want to continue to educate myself on the history, language and music."

Mahalo, Pauline, for your life of strength, wisdom and aloha.

Our 'Ohana Remembers the 1884 Visit of Queen Kapi'olani to the Settlement



Queen Kapi'olani, then-Princess Liliu'okalani and others visited the settlement on July 21-22, 1884 to learn about the needs of the community. Hawaiian history professor Colette Higgins believes the Queen is in this photo, sitting side-saddle on the horse on the far right, next to the rock wall. Photo: Hawai'i State Archives

In the summer of 1884, a ship suddenly appeared—unannounced—off the shores of Kalaupapa with a surprise guest on board: Queen Kapi'olani. With her was then-Princess Liliu'okalani and other dignitaries from Oahu. Word swept across the peninsula: their Queen was at Kalaupapa!

The two-day visit would change the course of the settlement. This was to be no ceremonial appearance by Kapi'olani. She was there to work: to hear her people and to address their concerns, to make life better for them. She would not fail.

This past August, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa commemorated the 140th anniversary of this historic visit by the Queen

and her party. Over four days, Ka 'Ohana held educational programs for the community along with other activities to remember this often-forgotten event.

"There were times when I felt that the Queen herself was among us," said Ka 'Ohana President Charmaine Woodward whose great-grandparents were sent to Kalaupapa.

The Queen was vividly brought to life by Hawaiian history professor Colette Higgins who, for nearly 25 years, has made it her mission to delve into the life of Kapi'olani and share her lesser-known story with the world.

But of the countless times that Colette has made these kinds of presentations, walking in the Queen's footsteps

Changed Kalaupapa

at Kalaupapa with Charmaine and other descendants made history feel like it was unfurling in real time.

"This is probably as close as I'm going to get to the way that Kapi'olani would have experienced it, right?" said Colette. "Because the descendants have discovered stories of their family members, it makes for a different experience, just being with them."

"This is where their ancestors lived, this is where they walked. For me, being with the descendants added a whole different dimension to it."

The descendants—Charmaine, Desiree McKillip, Georgette Kealoha, Tehani Hinkley, Lopaka Ho'opi'i and his son, Loa'a—brought along the spirit of their ancestors.

"This is our roots, this is our beginning," said Desiree whose great-grandfather, M.K. Makaena, was sent to Kalaupapa in 1889. "To think we are walking the grounds where our great-grandfather walked is just so very emotional. And even though he was not here when the Queen visited, it's like he's here with us."

Kapi'olani visited every house on the peninsula and those in the hospital, asking about the problems they faced, asking what they needed.

***She was there to work:
to hear her people and to
address their concerns, to
make life better for them.***

She would not fail.

The Queen traveled the rugged peninsula on horseback and, as Colette pointed out, she rode side-saddle. Nearly 50 years old at the time, Kapi'olani showed incredible stamina and strength, even navigating the rocky shoreline into remote Waikolu Valley to see the area that could be the source of fresh drinking water to the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula.

When she returned to Honolulu, Kapi'olani wasted no time. She arranged for pipes to be shipped to construct a potable water system to connect Waikolu with Kalaupapa, enabling nearly everyone to move from cold, wet Kalawao to the warmer climate of Kalaupapa.

The Queen also sent lumber to build much-needed housing and organized individual packages of personal items to be sent to each person at Kalaupapa. She established the Kapi'olani Home for Girls in Honolulu to care for girls born at Kalaupapa.

The summer of 1884: an often-forgotten time at Kalaupapa when a Queen listened to the people and took action to help, a time that came alive in the summer of 2024, thanks to Colette Higgins and the descendants of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.



Colette Higgins has spent nearly 25 years researching the life of Queen Kapi'olani and bringing to light her mostly unknown story and impressive accomplishments. Photo: Valerie Monson



During the four days of events organized by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to honor Queen Kapi'olani, Colette Higgins presented two narrated slide shows for the community. Both programs were held in St. Francis Hall at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

TO LEARN MORE:

See the webinar about Queen Kapi'olani and Kalaupapa by Colette Higgins on the website at: www.kalaupapaohana.org

Back at KAL

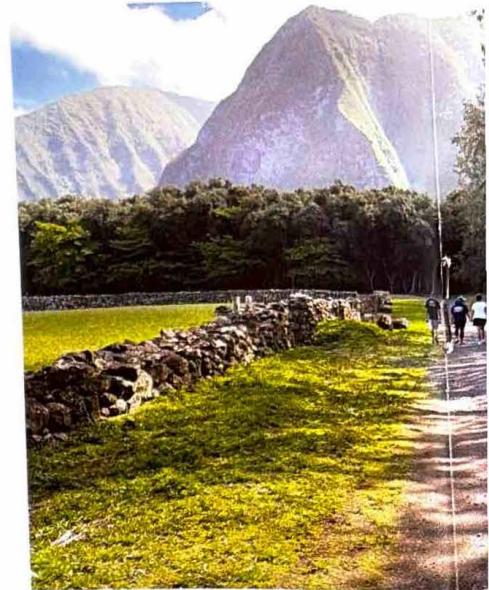


Norma Todd places a lei on the tombstone of her great-grandfather, Pin Kau Ching, who is buried in the Chinese Cemetery outside of Kalaupapa town.

Photo: Valerie Monson



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa held four community events at Kalaupapa this year, including three educational programs, meals, singalongs and discussions. A narrated slide show about "The Living Tombstones of Kalaupapa" was attended by nearly 30 Kalaupapa residents, workers and guests in July. Photo: DeGray Vanderbilt



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa commemorated Kalaupapa Moratorium remembrance day to honor the first 12 people sent to Kalaupapa. One of the events was a walk to Kalawao where we thought of the lost ones. Photo: Valerie Monson



Pauline Chow's Birthday Party
Photo: Charmaine Woodward



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa invited the community to celebrate the 90th birthday of Vice President Pauline Chow during the Queen Kapi'olani weekend in August. Sadly, Pauline unexpectedly died a month later. Photo: Anne Farahi



From right: Kalaupapa resident John Arruda, Ka 'Ohana Board Member DeGray Vanderbilt, St. Louis School Principal Timothy Los Banos and St. Louis alumni Ryan Hurley at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

In 2024, Ka 'Ohana ram after years of COVID restrictions

One of the hardships that resulted from the COVID-19 restrictions, was the strict limitations on visitors at Kalaupapa. Unable to conduct our face-to-face programs with the Kalaupapa community or help descendants visit the land of their ancestors, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa had to retool our outreach to virtual activities only.

In 2024, things began getting back to normal . . . although a new normal. Ka 'Ohana was excited to hold four community events at Kalaupapa, brought in descendants who had never before visited the land of their ancestors and organized a birthday celebration for Kalaupapa resident and Ka 'Ohana Vice President Pauline Chow.

But challenges remain. Ground transportation for bigger groups is



Month at Kalaupapa on January 6 with a
Kalaupapa on that day in 1866. Included with the
lonely journey of those first 12 individuals.

Jumped up activities restrictions

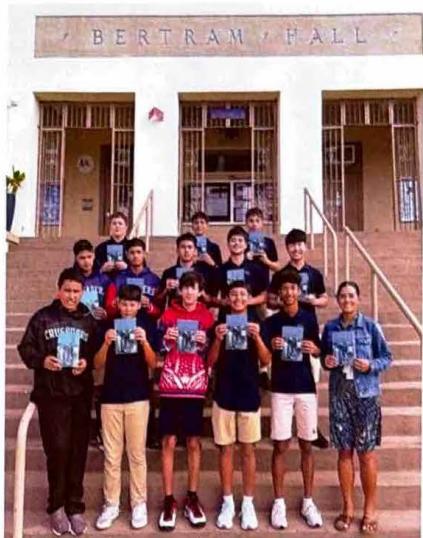
difficult because of the scarcity of large vans available to the community. Two smaller vans are privately owned, including one by Ka 'Ohana which was purchased to replace the bigger, older vehicle which fell into disrepair during the COVID years. There is also less visitor housing available.

This means it's not yet possible to return to the days of the large annual gatherings Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa once hosted. Ka 'Ohana appreciates the Department of Health working with us to streamline the process for descendants to visit the settlement under the supervision of 'Ohana leaders.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Kalaupapa community on moving forward in whatever ways we can with respect to the wishes of the residents.



Antone Aku, whose great-uncle is buried at Kalaupapa, presented plumeria blossoms at the ahu of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Valerie Monson



To observe Kalaupapa Month last January, the students of Kumu Kawai Bluhm read "The True Story of Kalaikoolau as Told by His Wife Pili." Photo: Courtesy St. Louis School



St. Francis Church always welcomes families from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to Sunday Mass. Photo: Valerie Monson



One of the highlights of any visit to Kalaupapa is taking in the view from the overlook on the edge of Kalawao, looking toward Waikolu Valley, the towering pali of the North Shore of Molokai and the islets of Mōkāpu and 'Okāla. Photo: Charmaine Woodward.



Ka 'Ohana holds educational presentations at our Kalaupapa house whenever we can. Photo: Charmaine Woodward

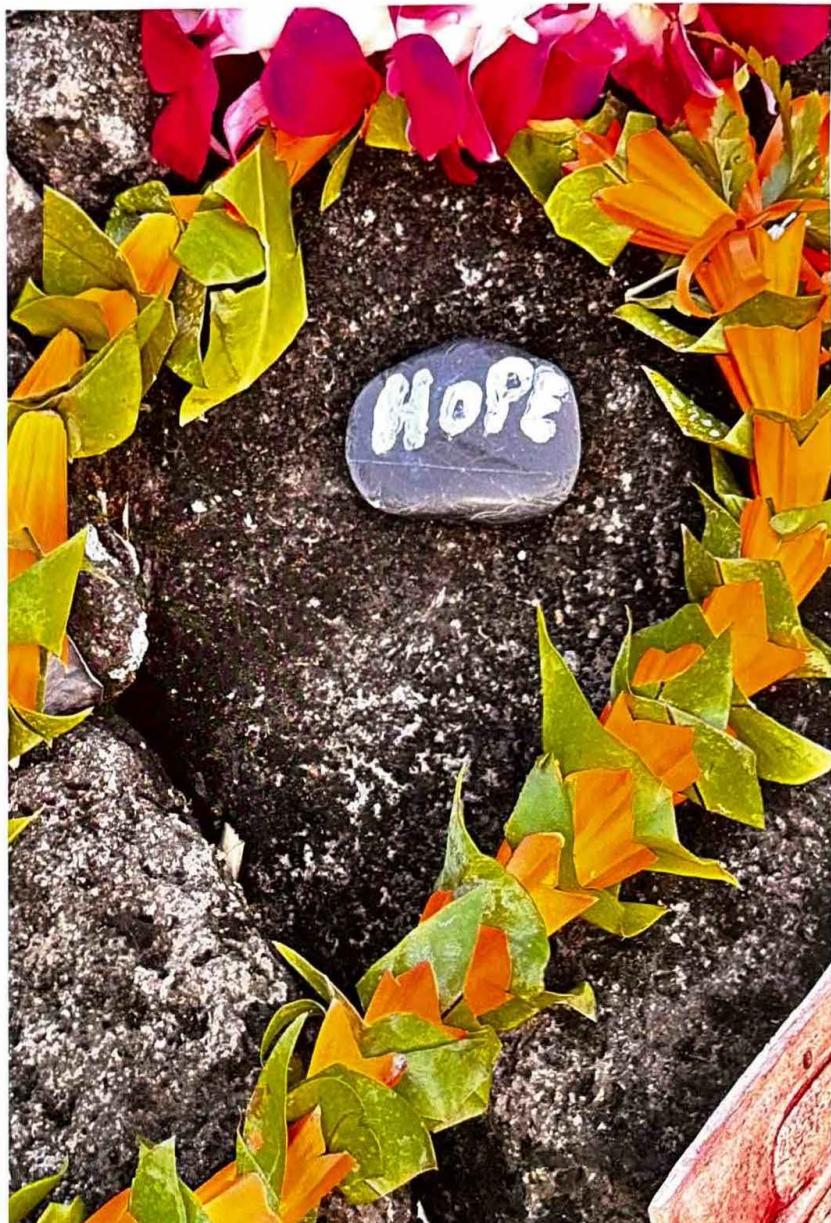
WE MUST PERSEVERE

In the summer of 2022, the Kalaupapa Memorial reached a milestone when the State Legislature unanimously approved \$5 million to plan and build this long-awaited dream of the people of Kalaupapa. Governor David Ige signed the legislation into law.

More than two years later, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is still waiting for the first distribution of the funds to be released. This past October, the State Department of Health gave Ka 'Ohana a 63-page draft contract to review and accept. As this newsletter was being written, our 'Ohana leaders and attorneys were appraising the contract. We are hoping this is the start of a path forward.

Ka 'Ohana has also been presented with new requirements by the National Park Service and the Department of Land and Natural Resources before the Memorial can be built. Leaders of Ka 'Ohana have been involved in numerous meetings to satisfy these prerequisites—and get the Memorial constructed.

It has been exhausting and, at times, frustrating, but we must continue to persevere and rest assured that the spirit of the people who will be remembered on the Memorial will prevail. We look forward to continued progress with the government agencies so we can dedicate the Memorial while there are still residents living at Kalaupapa.



This "Hope" rock rests upon the ahu at the site of the Kalaupapa Memorial. The stone was painted by Pi'olani Motta, a staunch supporter of the Kalaupapa Memorial who has family members buried at Kalaupapa. Pi'olani died in 2020. Photo: Charmaine Woodward

John Arruda: Strong and Active at 100

Kalaupapa resident John Arruda proved, yet again, that he is one-of-a-kind: On April 12, 2024, surrounded by family, friends and a congratulatory video from the Governor, John celebrated his 100th birthday.

He is believed to be the first person to turn 100 after being sent to Kalaupapa.

John, who grew up on Kauai, was ordered to Kalaupapa at the age of 21 in 1945 because he had leprosy. In an interview with Valerie Monson, he recalled that first day as clearly as yesterday.

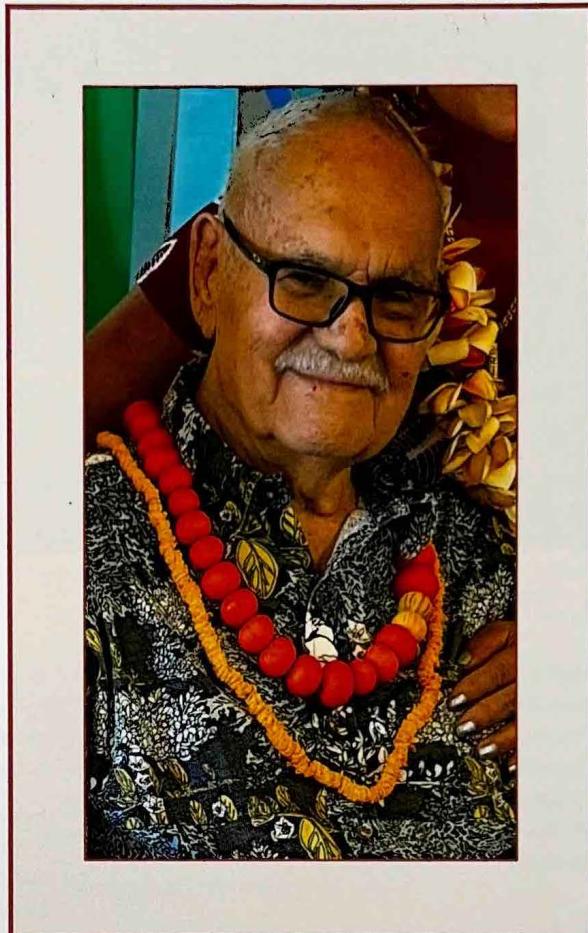
"You look at the cliff, the ocean—and you have no one," said John. "I remember thinking 'You've got to take care of yourself because no one else is going to take care of you.'"

“You just have to accept what’s happened to you, . . . You have to accept it and move forward.”

John has done just that. He exercises every day, watches what he eats, remains positive and appreciates the good genetics of his long living 'ohana. As a result, he still lives independently in his home at Kalaupapa, drives his pickup anywhere he wants, stays in touch with family and friends—and looks 25 years younger than what his birth certificate says.

The key to his good life happened during those first few years at Kalaupapa. Young John had to rely on his mental strength and faith, acknowledging the new reality that he could not change. He had to find new hope.

"You just have to accept what's happened to you," Arruda continued during his interview with Valerie. "You have to accept it and move forward.



John Arruda at his birthday party. Photo: Debbie Piper

That's what I did because . . . you have to. You do other things. You play sports, you go to church, you have your friends."

Arruda's life is a lesson for all of us: accept the adversities and heartbreaks that we all face at some point. After releasing the pain or anger, accept what you can't change and find a way to move forward.

At age 100, John Arruda is grateful and filled with grace.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," he said softly. "I thank God for my life, I thank my family, I thank my friends. I give thanks for Kalaupapa."

The Future of Kalaupapa:

Will the



A longstanding tradition of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is our Circle of Remembrance, held at most of our events at the future site of the Kalaupapa Memorial where Kalaupapa residents, descendants and friends hold hands and speak aloud the names of loved ones at Kalaupapa who have died. Photo: Wayne Levin

Continued from page 1

Even though Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has held numerous discussions about the future of Kalaupapa since organizing in 2003 and even developed a 28-page Position Paper with ideas to manage the land and preserve the history, plans about the "transition" of Kalaupapa have been limited to a transitional planning team consisting solely of government officials who are mostly meeting in Honolulu.

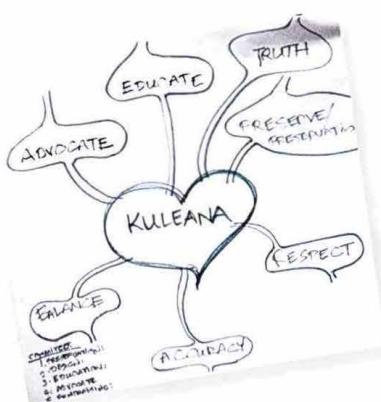
Leaders of Ka 'Ohana and descendants of Kalaupapa have not been consulted about the future of Kalaupapa—requests to join the government leaders on the transition team have been denied. The upper Molokai community which has a longstanding interest in what happens at Kalaupapa has not been included—neither have the Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries who have thoughts on opening up homestead lands on the peninsula.

There are now just seven individuals who have the right to live at Kalaupapa—those people who were affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease. Four of them still live in the settlement .

In early October, leaders of the State Department of Health, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Department of Transportation held an "informational briefing" in Kaunakakai where they heard the frustrations of the public.

"My takeaway is that the community has demanded to have a space at the table of decision-making," Maui County Councilwoman Keani-Rawlins Fernandez told *Hawai'i News Now* after the meeting.

Rawlins-Fernandez and State Representative Mahina Poepoe intend to make that happen. The two



During a leadership workshop several years ago, participants described how the values and objectives of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa would lead to our collective kuleana to remember the people of Kalaupapa.
Photo: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



Kalaupapa residents have long provided the heart, soul and wisdom behind our 'Ohana during our many discussions over the years: (from left): Winnie Harada (sitting), Pauline Chow, and John Arruda with Noelani Kauhikaua, Pauline's relative (in the middle).
Photo: Wayne Levin

Voices of the People Finally Be Heard?



Monica Bacon, great-great niece of Kalaupapa unsung hero Ambrose Hutchison, leads a discussion about the Kalaupapa Memorial at the 2016 annual meeting. 'Ohana meetings and events are always open to anyone at Kalaupapa and invited guests. Photo: Wayne Levin



Lopaka Ho'opi'i, whose father was born at Kalaupapa, makes a point during a session of an annual meeting. Lopaka would like to see Kalaupapa opened to homesteading in the future. Photo: Wayne Levin

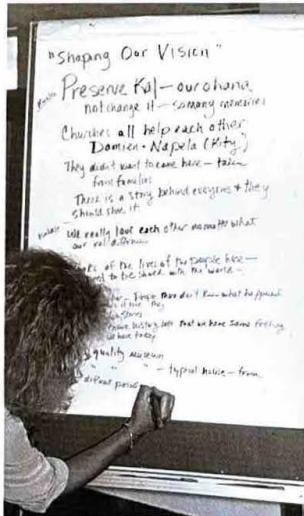
elected Molokai leaders announced they would form a Working Group that will include other voices to discuss the future of Kalaupapa—finally giving many knowledgeable members of the community a chance to weigh in. Government officials will be welcome to join.

The Working Group is expected to have its first meeting before the end of the year. There are numerous questions about the future of Kalaupapa that have yet to be discussed:

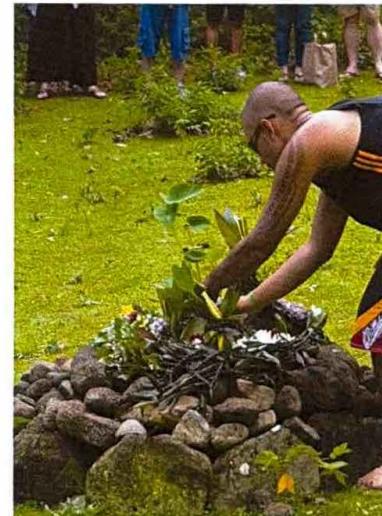
- Although Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980, what happens when the State Department of Health leaves following the death of the last resident (patient)? Will the federal government be in full control of Kalaupapa with possibly no accountability to anyone else?
- Will a local, non-government group have a leading role to provide oversight of government operations at Kalaupapa and be involved in shaping policies?
- Will homesteading be permitted on the nearly 1,300 acres of Hawaiian Homelands at Kalaupapa?
- If the federal government leaves, where will the money come from to manage Kalaupapa, maintain the buildings and provide support for a new community? Will Kalawao County continue or will the peninsula become part of Maui County?
- How will tourism be handled?
- Will the lands of Kalaupapa be returned to the Hawaiian people?

All these questions need to be vetted. Since 2003, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has urged government leaders to not only discuss these issues with the community, but to listen to them for guidance and direction. In fact, the theme of the 2004 annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana was "We Want to Be Part of the Process."

Finally, that might happen.



In 2005, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa devoted its annual meeting to gathering thoughts and ideas about the future of Kalaupapa. This two-day discussion led to the National Park Service's decision to develop a General Management Plan for the future of Kalaupapa. Photo: Wayne Levin



'Aina Akamu, whose grandparents were sent to Kalaupapa and are buried there, leads a Remembrance Ceremony at the ahu which will become the piko (center) of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Wayne Levin

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau. . .

... To Honor and To Perpetuate"
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Aloha 'oe Pauline Chow

Mele Kalikimaka from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Peace On Earth



Santa Claus takes a break from his annual visit to Kalaupapa to relax by the ocean while sending thoughts of good will and peace to all.

Photo: Valerie Monson

Support Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations from supporters like you to enable our programs to grow. Your tax-deductible contributions will help us reconnect more descendants to their Kalaupapa ancestors, continue and expand our educational programs, establish the Kalaupapa Memorial and more. Please consider a donation to the 'Ohana.

Mahalo in advance.

Send your donations to:

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

PO Box 1111

Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742

Or donate by visiting our 'Ohana website

www.kalaupapaohana.org

Mahalo to GOG Hawaii Foundation for their generous support with the production costs of this newsletter.





Bernard Ka'owakaokalani Punikai'a:



Although Kalaupapa leader Bernard Ka'owakaokalani Punikai'a died more than 15 years ago, he was very much alive in the hearts and minds of all who gathered to honor what would have been his 95th birthday at the Queen Emma Summer Palace in Nu'uanu.

"Bernard's life is a celebration of making things better for people," said former Governor John Waihe'e, a longtime friend and admirer of Punikai'a, the courageous warrior who stood up to government time and time again when the voices of his people were left out.

The event, held last August, was coordinated by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the organization that Punikai'a envisioned to make sure the lives of those sent to Kalaupapa and their history are forever remembered – and to help guide the future. The Daughters of Hawai'i hosted the celebration.

Although Punikai'a was not there physically, he was everywhere. Photographs of him and of his greatest triumph – the Save Hale Mohalu movement – filled the hall, his music resonated from musicians Lopaka Ho'opi'i and Tony Conjugacion, and memories of Bernard were on the lips of everyone.

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A Message from Our President



PHOTO BY DEGRAY VANDERBILT

■ Leaders of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa (cir. 2018): President Boogie Kahilihiwa, Pauline Ahulau Chow and Gloria Marks.

As I look to the stars tonight, I find the brightest one and remember Bernard Ka'owaka-okalani Punikal'a—our founder, our fearless leader. I wish he were here now so I could witness the strength that Governors Waihe'e and Abercrombie spoke of: the ability to stand in adversity and fiercely advocate for Kalaupapa.

I wish my children could see him in action, learning what it looks like to be a true leader—courageous, unwavering, and so 'ike-full (*knowledgeable*).

I vividly remember joining the Board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2010—just a short time after the deaths of Bernard and Kuulei Bell, our first President. Even during those difficult times we were anchored by the strength of three resident kupuna: Boogie Kahilihiwa, Pauline Ahulau Chow, and Gloria Marks. I worked alongside them for more than 10 years ... until Uncle Boogie passed in 2021 and Aunty Pauline last year.

Just weeks ago, another shining star took her place in the heavens: Aunty Gloria—strong, mana-full, and the last resident voice from our Board. My heart aches... 'Eha'eha ko'u pu'uwaia... I wish all three of them could have stayed a little longer just so we could hear their voices one more time—and so they could see the completed Kalaupapa Memorial that they all so strongly supported.

I cannot believe we no longer have any Kalaupapa kupuna on our Board. They are now seated amongst the stars, looking down on us with the thousands of other residents—all of whom continue to guide our next steps. This profound loss underlines the transition Bernard foresaw: a time when descendants would have to take an active role in protecting the history and the residents' legacy. I'm scared.... I wish I could ensure that I do their greatness justice.

But Bernard prepared us for this time. That's why he created Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa which was embraced by many of his Kalaupapa friends and neighbors in 2003. Today, only five residents remain—and we treasure them all.

The call of those 8,000 stars is a direct summons to action now. Know your stories. Share your stories. Join us. ■

Aloha nō,

Charmaine Woodward, President

Kalaupapa Memorial

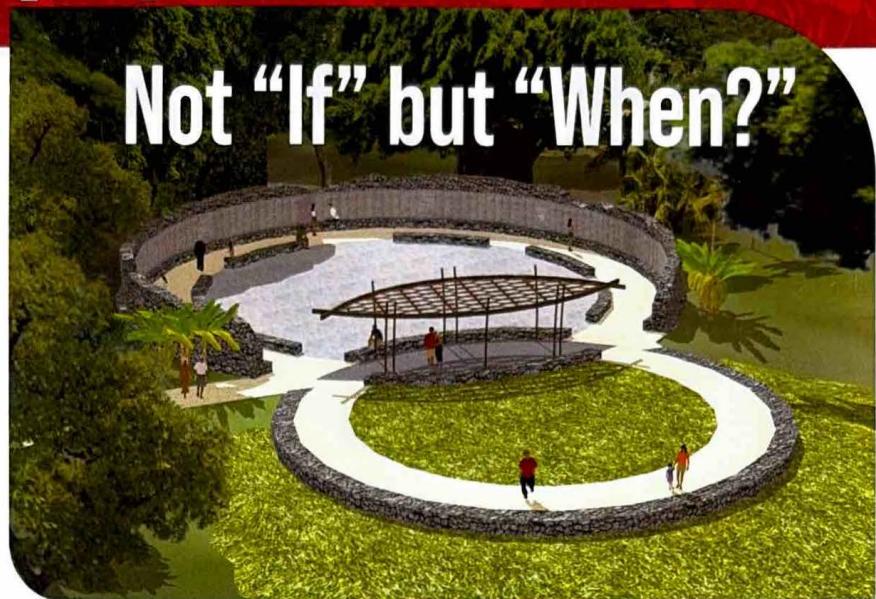
When former Governor John Waihe'e was asked to welcome the gathering to celebrate Bernard Punikai'a, he not only wanted to remember Bernard, but to share his personal frustrations over the long delays of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Waihe'e recalled a time when he was at Kalaupapa, "standing with a group of patients and we are talking about a Memorial" that would be built on the site of the Old Baldwin Home, across from a cemetery of about 2,000 unmarked graves.

"And that was, what, 20 years ago?

Years and years ago," the Governor continued. "And the people of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa have been working on that project 'til today."

In 2022, the Legislature appropriated \$5 million to build the Memorial, but because of government bureaucracy, Ka 'Ohana did not receive the first portion of those funds – 5 percent of the \$5 million – until this past July.



■ (Above) G70 image. (Below) 2015 procession to the future site of the Memorial..

During those three years, costs have ballooned because of inflation and impending tariffs.

Even worse, more Kalaupapa residents who wanted to see the Memorial have died. ■



PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN

When will the Memorial become reality?

Over the past 20 years, Ka 'Ohana has received many key approvals required by State and Federal processes. Below are a few major steps:

2009: Congress authorized Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to build the Memorial displaying the names of all the estimated 8,000 people who were sent there. President Barack Obama signed the legislation into law.

2013: The Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board) approved the issuance of a 65-year lease between the Land Board and Ka 'Ohana. However, as a result of a state administrative lapse, the Land Board had to amend its approval to "approval in principle" subject to compliance with the State's Environmental Assessment law.

2015: The State Land Use Commission unanimously approved the Memorial as an appropriate lawful use of the land deeming it an improvement to a site of historic interest to the State.

2018: The Land Board unanimously approved the Environmental Assessment for the Memorial.

2020: The Land Board Chair determined everything was in place to schedule a meeting before the Land Board for final lease approval subject to Ka 'Ohana formally accepting the lease, which Ka 'Ohana did. However, that hearing has yet to be scheduled.

In 2025, Kalaupapa said goodbye to two cherished members of the community who knew the power and joy of learning: Danny Hashimoto and Gloria Lutu Marks. Aloha 'oe to our dear friends...

Aloha 'oe, Gloria Lutu Marks

When young Gloria Lutu arrived in Hawai'i with her family from Samoa, she spoke no English and had to adjust to a new country.

It was sheer determination over the years that led her to educate herself and become fluent in a new language while transforming into a savvy businesswoman and one of Kalaupapa's most respected leaders. Along with her husband, Richard Marks, Gloria operated Damien Tours with for 50 years and owned Fuesaina's Bar at Kalaupapa. She was the longtime Chairwoman of the Kalaupapa Patients Advisory Council and served on the Board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa since the 'Ohana organized in 2003, frequently testifying – in person or by letter – at government hearings about Kalaupapa and in support of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Most importantly, there was family: Richard along with their five children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Gloria died October 10, 2025, on Oahu at the home of her daughter, Eloise Lutu Carroll, with Hospice care. She was 87. ■

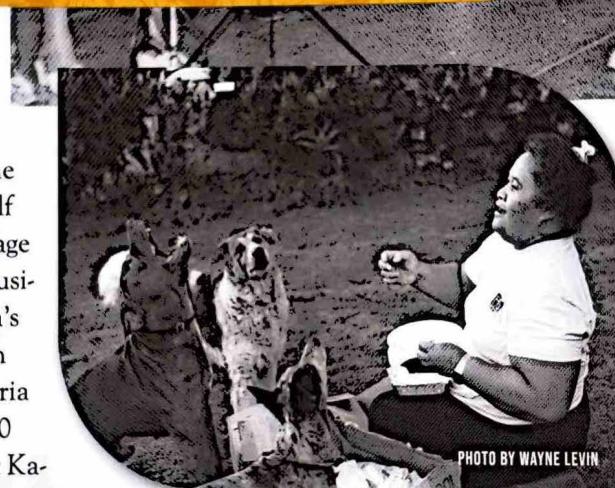
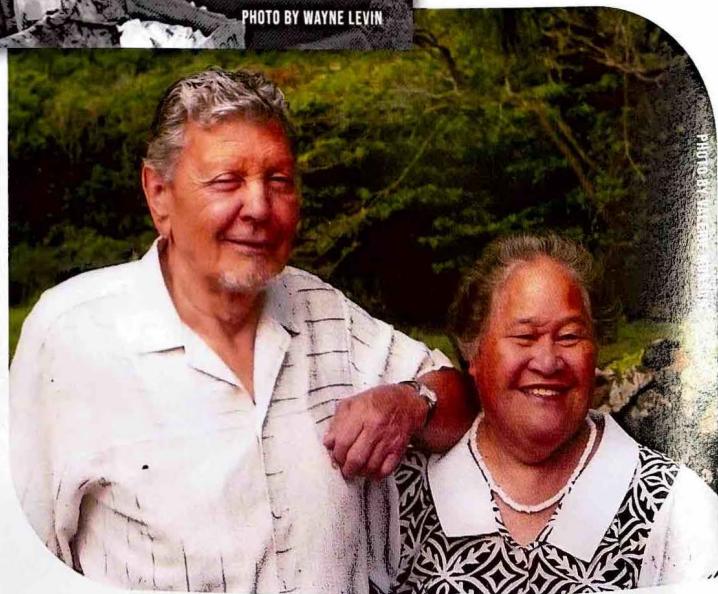


PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN



■ photos (top to bottom):

Young Gloria Lutu dancing at Hale Mohalu in Pearl City.

Gloria tossing food into the air for her three dogs.

Richard and Gloria Marks outside St. Philomena Church in Kalawao.

COURTESY: KALAUPAPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Aloha 'Oe, Danny Hashimoto

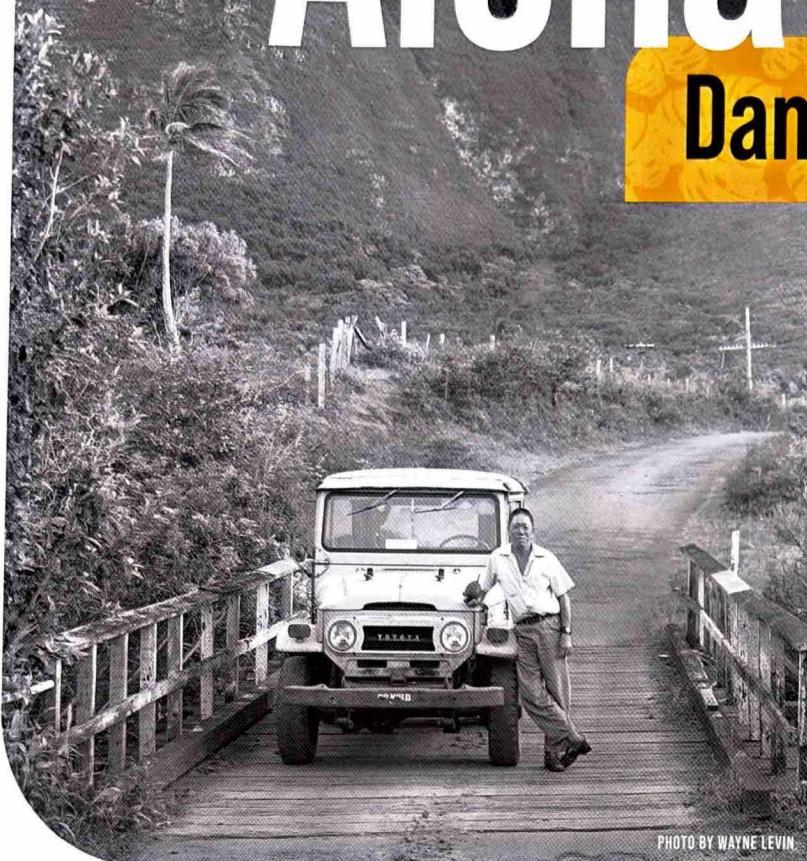


PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN

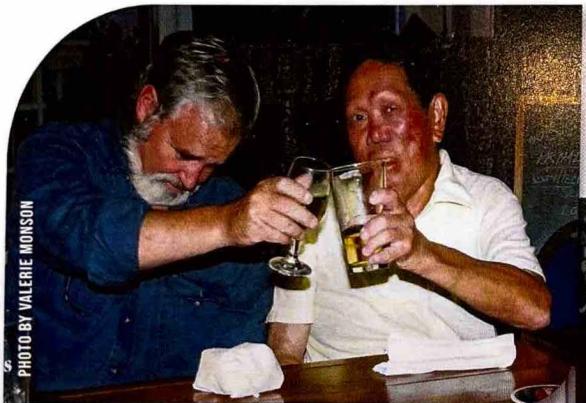


PHOTO BY VALERIE MONSON

■ photos (top to bottom):

Danny posed with his jeep backdropped by the Kalaupapa pali.

Danny enjoying a drink with his good friend, DeGray Vanderbilt.

Danny met William Merwin, then the US Poet Laureate, at an event on Maui; the two sat next to each other at dinner where they discussed various things.

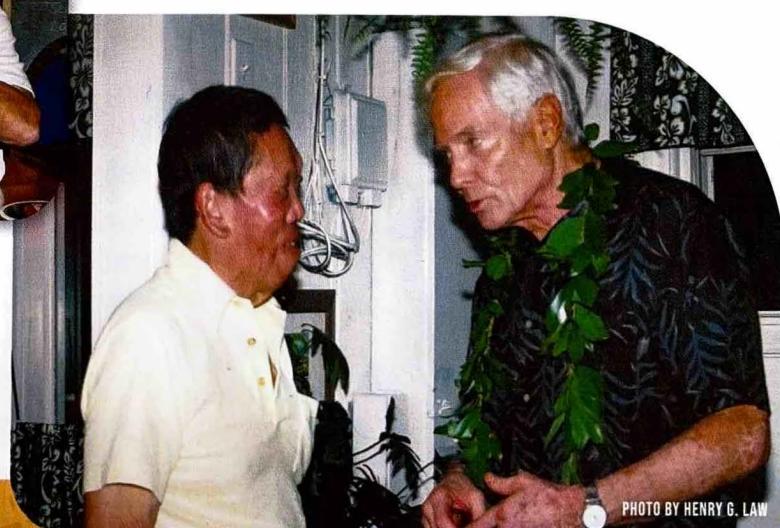


PHOTO BY HENRY G. LAW

Restoring Family Ties



When Dita Ramier and Malia Ane stepped off the plane at Kalaupapa, they were both in search of family.

For Dita, it was finding a grave for Rose Ahuna, a once-forgotten relative who died at Kalaupapa in 1912. For Malia, there was a living connection — a rare opportunity for descendants today — as she hoped to speak with the wife of her father's cousin who had died in 1981.

Although their searches ended with different results, both Dita and Malia reunited with family at Kalaupapa — each in her own way.

With the assistance of Ka 'Ohana O Kalau-papa, Malia was able to visit her late cousin's wife, Meli Watanuki, where they held one another's hands and shed tears together. Dita never found the grave of Rose Ahuna, but she felt the presence of Rose while learning more about the powerful history of Kalaupapa and the fortitude of the people.

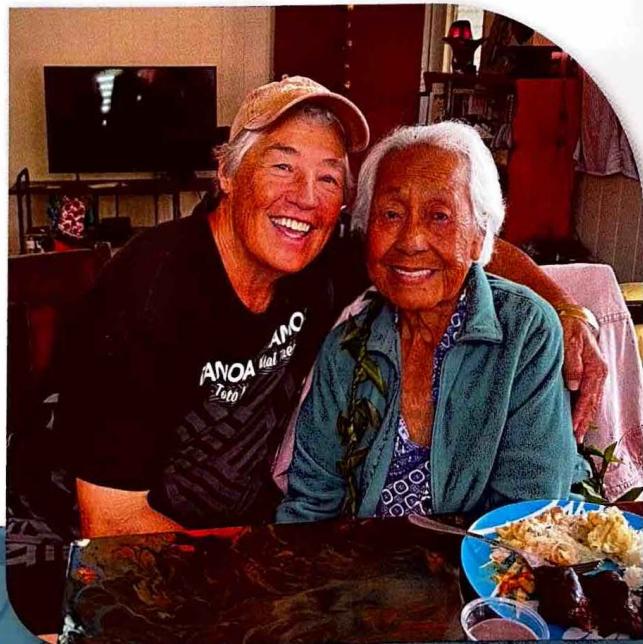


Dita and Malia flew to the peninsula in late October with friends Heather Shannon and Elizabeth Riegels, all of them friends from Punahoa School.

Malia, who is of Hawaiian-Samoan-Chinese-Caucasian descent, was coming to honor her cousin, Teetai Eteru Pili, the beloved husband of Meli Watanuki, and a popular sheriff of Kalaupapa. It was Teetai's mother who had given Malia her Samoan name: Sa'otama'ita'i. Malia's father, brothers and nephews also carried the name Teetai.

When Melia arrived, she wasn't sure if she could visit Meli. But when the two women met, they were quickly overwhelmed with the love of family.

"This was a gift I had no idea was going to happen," said Malia who later placed flowers on the grave of Teetai. "I will treasure this moment forever."



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ▶



at Kalaupapa

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Meli, who married Randall Watanuki years after Pili died, felt the same way. She was so touched that she and her niece, Rosa Key, a longtime National Park Service staffer at Kalaupapa, invited Malia, Dita, Elizabeth and Heather to a long lunch the next day to talk story, laugh...and shed a few more tears.

Meanwhile, Dita was trying to find a similar kind of peace. For years, Dita had been searching for Rose Ahuna, a young woman who had married into the family in the early 1900s, but who had been mostly lost to history. Dita learned about Rose from an aunt: Sister Rose Annette Ahuna, a Franciscan nun who served three years at Kalaupapa. Sister Rose Annette had chosen Rose as her religious name.

While Dita never felt the same kind of presence as Malia, she believes a kind of healing is on the way in the form of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

"We know Rose is here and I want to see her name on the Memorial," said Dita. "The Memorial really needs to built."

"When my granddaughter grows up, I want to be able to tell her that we have family at Kalaupapa. I want her to be able to see Rose's name and to touch it, to touch it on a structure, on a Memorial."

Malia agreed.

"We need to keep the names alive," she said. "We have so much to learn from the people of Kalaupapa. We need to thank them for all that they went through, for living the lives they did so we can learn from them."



At the site of the future Memorial, Dita left a bouquet of roses in honor of her special Rose.

"There are so many families like mine who will never find a tombstone here and they need to see the names," she said. "The Memorial will allow the families to rest." ■

"We need to keep the names alive. We have so much to learn from the people of Kalaupapa. We need to thank them for all that they went through, for living the lives they did so we can learn from them."

- MALIA ANE



■ photos from previous page (clockwise from top):

Meli Watanuki and Malia Ane clasped hands and bonded with Teetai Pili in their hearts.

The four friends at the Kalaupapa Airport: (left to right): Malia Ane, Dita Ramier, Elizabeth Riegels & Heather Shannon.

Teetai Eteru Pili graduating from high school in Samoa is featured on his tombstone.

Malia Ane (left) and Meli Watanuki made an instant connection through Meli's late husband, Teetai Eteru Pili, who was the cousin of Malia's father, Charles Ane.

■ photos from this page (left to right):

Dita Ramier expresses her love for the people of Kalaupapa after placing roses at the site of the future Kalaupapa Memorial.

Dita Ramier added plumeria flowers to the ti leaf lei she made to present at the grave of Mother Marianne Cope (Saint Marianne) at Kalaupapa.

ALL PHOTOS BY VALERIE MONSON

Yours Faithfully

Ambrose Hutchison: Recollections of a Lifetime at Kalaupapa

This year, Historic Hawai'i Foundation presented Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa with yet another award for preserving the history of Kalaupapa, this time honoring Ka 'Ohana for the research, writing and production of the book, "Yours Faithfully – Ambrose Hutchison: Recollections of a Lifetime at Kalaupapa."

It was the eighth Preservation Award for Ka 'Ohana from Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

The book was based on the memoirs of Ambrose Kanewali'i Hutchison, an unsung hero of Kalaupapa who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1879 and lived there until his death in 1932. Kalaupapa historian and author Anwei Law edited the memoirs and conducted additional research.

Monica Bacon and her sister, Mara Bacon Chang, great-grand nieces of Ambrose, attended the HHF annual awards ceremony where the book was celebrated along with other important projects preserving the history of Hawai'i – projects done mostly by nonprofits or other volunteer efforts, projects done from the heart.

We asked Monica Bacon to share her thoughts about the book and what its publication means to the Hutchison family.

This is what she wrote:

"How fortunate it was that Uncle Ambrose put pen to paper to record his experiences as a resident and as a leader at Kalaupapa, during such an incredible span of time in the settlement's history. For me, his writings provided insight about a family member who for most of my life I knew little about."

"I believe he did it because he knew his voice mattered, and that the lives of those he lived with in their peninsula community mattered too."

"I don't know what inspired him to do it, to make the effort in his twilight years to handwrite his recollections. I've wondered this ever since I held those original yellow lined notepad papers in my own hands during my trip to Belgium in 2017."

"I believe he did it because he knew his voice mattered, and that the lives of those he lived with in their peninsula community mattered too."

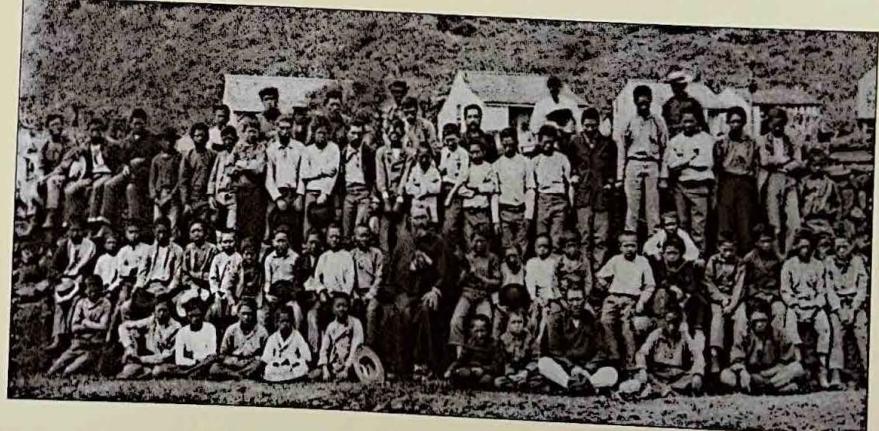
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ▶

Yours Faithfully - Ambrose Hutchison

*Yours faithfully
Ambrose Hutchison*

Recollections of a Lifetime at Kalaupapa

Based on the Memoirs & Other Writings of
Ambrose Kanewali'i Hutchison



► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Thanks to his memoirs and Anwei Law's deep knowledge of Kalaupapa's people & history, we know that while those with Hansen's disease may have been required to live at Kalaupapa because of the health policies of the Hawaiian Kingdom, they didn't let the disease define who they were. Despite limited resources and the challenges their conditions posed, their multicultural community lived lives that were testaments to their strength, resilience, dignity, and humanity.

My mother Mercedes, a Hutchison descendant, once said that the residents of Kalaupapa were "The Pride of a Nation." Heroes aren't necessarily the obvious ones in stories and folklore. Oftentimes they're quiet, unassuming, and yet with unwavering fealty, they commit to causes outside themselves for the good of the greater community.

"Let's remember and celebrate these mostly unknown and unheralded heroes and the sacrifices they made. The greatest honor we can give them is to relay their histories authentically and with dignity.

"Let their stories of life and community from the past inspire us to be compassionate, especially for those experiencing similar hardships today. I'm proud of my uncle and his work as a community advocate at Kalaupapa.

"Uncle Ambrose didn't do it for any personal recognition then or for in the future, he did it because it was the right thing to do."

"Yours Faithfully – Ambrose Hutchison: Recollections of a Lifetime at Kalaupapa" is available by writing to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa at info.kalaupapa@gmail.com. The book costs \$50 plus postage and handling. ■

■ book cover image (previous page):

The cover of the memoirs of Ambrose Hutchison published by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa – and honored in 2025 by Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

■ photos (top to bottom):

Monica Bacon at the grave of her great-grand uncle Ambrose Hutchison and other members of the Hutchison family.

Monica Bacon (left) and Mara Bacon Chang, great-grand nieces of Ambrose Hutchison, receive a certificate of excellence for the book presented by Historic Hawai'i Foundation.



PHOTO BY MARIE LEVIN



PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

*Yours faithfully
Ambrose Hutchison*

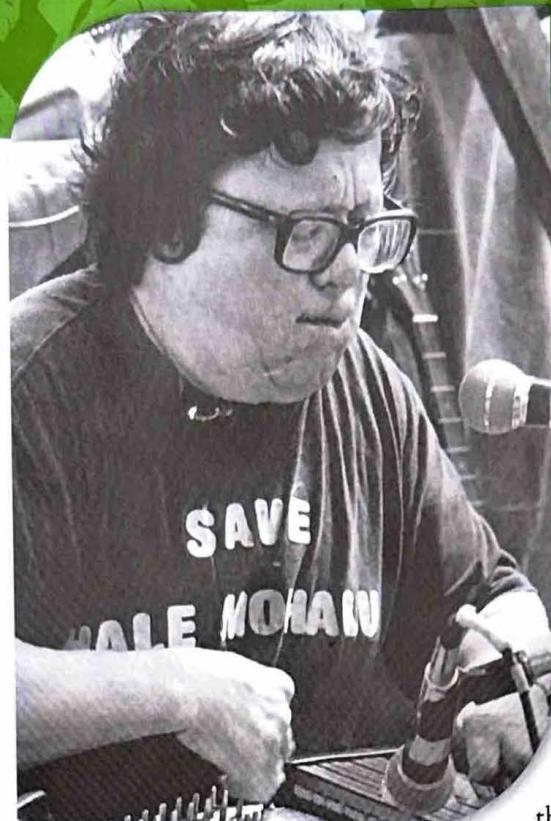
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"I started weeping the second I came through the door," said former Governor Neil Abercrombie, describing Punikai'a as his "hero."

Punikai'a was taken from his mother when he was just 6 ½ years old after being diagnosed with leprosy. He was sent to Kalaupapa in 1942 at the age of 11 where he was so sick, he was not expected to live long. That would be the first of many times that Punikai'a would defy the odds in a life predicted by his Hawaiian name, Ka'owakaokalani: "bright light in the sky."

Shining his bright light on injustices and wrongs forced upon the people of Kalaupapa, Punikai'a would go on to become one of Kalaupapa's most dynamic leaders. He evolved into a household name across Hawai'i in 1978 when he spearheaded the movement to Save Hale Mohalu, the 5 ½ year protest when Kalaupapa residents opposed the state closing a residential treatment center in Pearl City without involving them in the discussions.

A decade after Hale Mohalu, Punikai'a began worrying about the future of Kalaupapa. He saw the population of Kalaupapa growing older and getting smaller. Without support from others, he feared their voices would no longer be heard. It was the vision of Punikai'a to bring



together family members, descendants and friends of the community to advocate for Kalaupapa and to make sure their wishes guided the future of the settlement.

Charmaine Woodward, President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, never knew Punikai'a personally – he died just before she joined the organization. But, as she pointed out, that was exactly why a celebration of Bernard's life was needed 15 years after his death: to inspire a new generation to learn about him....just as his legacy has inspired her.

"Our north star, our Ka'owakaokalani, transcends time and space, continuing to guide us through his experiences and his stories," said Woodward, whose great-grandparents are buried at Kalaupapa.

"As future ancestors," she continued, "it is important to honor and remember the legacy of our kupuna isolated at Kalaupapa so their mo'olelo remains alive forever."

Sarah Kuaiwa, also a descendant of Kalaupapa, was participating in an 'Ohana event for the first time.

"It was so beautiful," she said. "You could see there's such dedication from longstanding 'Ohana members



► CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and so much interest from other descendants who want to become advocates and get involved in future discussions.”

Waihe'e talked passionately about how the people of Kalaupapa have wanted a Memorial for the past 40 years, but frustrating delays dealing with government continue to plague it.

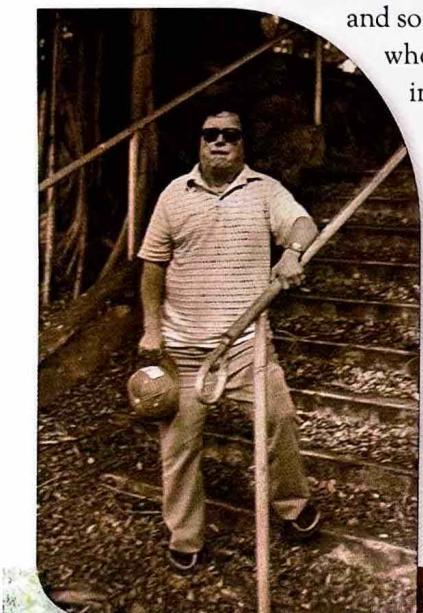
“All of us have a challenge, and that is to join together, to bring forth the dream of Bernard and so many others at Kalaupapa of a Memorial, so that the future will never forget the sacrifices made.” ■



■ page 10 photos (clockwise from top left):
A photo of Bernard Punikai'a looking out over the audience.
Former Gov. John Waihe'e remembers Bernard and urges for the Kalaupapa Memorial to be expedited.

Charmaine Woodward greets the crowd.
May Holokai, a descendant of Kalaupapa, shares her mana'o with the crowd.

■ page 11 photos (clockwise from top):
Former Gov. Neil Abercrombie remembers Bernard with slides of his good friend behind him.
Rev. Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu, gives the opening pule.
Tony Conjugacion & Lopaka Ho'opi'i honor Bernard in song.
A packed house of attendees remembers Bernard.
Bernard on the steps of the razed Hale Mohalu in 1985.



ALL PHOTOS BY WAYNE LEVIN

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

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... To Honor and to Perpetuate"
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■ Aloha 'Oe Gloria Lutu Marks
and Danny Hashimoto



Mele Kalikimaka from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



PHOTO BY VALERIE MONSON

Gloria Marks and Santa Claus enjoy a dance during a Kalaupapa Lions Club Christmas party that took place in earlier times. Gloria was a longtime Lions Club officer who became good friends with Santa during his annual visits to the settlement. Gloria revived Christmas at Kalaupapa by creating more excitement over the Christmas Lights Contest and purchasing many of the gifts given out during the "lucky number" drawing.

Support Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit & relies on donations from supporters like you to enable our programs to grow. Your tax-deductible contributions will help us reconnect more descendants to their Kalaupapa ancestors, continue and expand our educational programs, establish the Kalaupapa Memorial and more. Please consider a donation to the 'Ohana. Mahalo in advance.

Send your donations to:

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
PO Box 1111
Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742

Or donate by visiting our 'Ohana website
www.kalaupapaohana.org

Mahalo to GOG Hawaii Foundation for their generous support with the production costs of this newsletter.



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**"RECOGNIZING THE SACRED 'ĀINA OF KALAUPAPA
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND KALAWAO
COUNTY BY HONORING THE KALAUPAPA
MEMORIAL AND THE UNWAVERING EFFORTS OF
KA 'OHANA O KALAUPAPA**

WHEREAS, the Kalawao County has great natural beauty with rare endemic plants and animals along with ancient cultural and archaeology sites;

WHEREAS, the peninsula was once known for Kumanomano and 'Ahapi'i types of kapa, and Kalaupapa was also known for its fine grained white salt and fishing areas;

WHEREAS, because of Kalaupapa's isolation, 'āina ka'awalei, it also became known as the 'āina of kaumaha noho'i and pilikia, land of deep sorrow, misery and hardship;

WHEREAS, on January 6, 1866, the first twelve of an estimated eight thousand leprosy patients arrived in Kalaupapa. They were taken from their families and forced into isolation;

WHEREAS, the original inhabitants of Kalaupapa played a critical role in helping these patients, who were abandoned with no support or supplies. The settlement grew and became overcrowded, the original inhabitants were ordered to leave the land they had occupied for generations;

WHEREAS, the last of the original people living in Kalaupapa were evicted in January 1895. Kalaupapa became the home and final resting place for many of the patient residents who remained;

WHEREAS, the naming process and the giving of a Hawaiian name is an important and sacred component of Hawaiian culture;

WHEREAS, names carry significant mana (spiritual power), and they are part of a person, just like an arm or a leg;

WHEREAS, a person's name was one of the most precious possessions, unique to the individual, and, most times, related to an event, an ancestor, or a personality trait. In every case, the Kūpuna (elders) were always consulted;

WHEREAS, it was the responsibility of the bearer of the name to carry its weight. Therefore, it is important to remember people by their names at their final resting place;

WHEREAS, in 1980, Federal Public Law 96-565 established Kalaupapa National Historical Park to assist and support the community;

WHEREAS, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Kalaupapa Memorial Act, into law, as Public Law 111-11, directing the Secretary of the Interior to authorize Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and their family members and friends, to establish a Memorial which would display the names of the estimated 8,000 people sent to the peninsula because of government separation policies regarding leprosy;

WHEREAS, the Kalaupapa Memorial will list the names of each individual to illustrate and show the sheer enormity of the lives and families affected by the separation and to honor the individual identities of those sent to Kalaupapa who were often only referred to as a collective group of "patients" or identified in records by the number assigned to them by the government;

WHEREAS, Ka 'Ohana has reconnected nearly 900 families with their Kalaupapa 'ohana through their extremely successful program of "Restoration of Family Ties";

WHEREAS, Ka 'Ohana's efforts in establishing Kalaupapa's important historic Memorial is an important step toward recognizing and healing the tragic harms of the past;

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiian 'ohana had members exiled to Kalaupapa. Of the estimated 8,000 Hawai'i citizens sent to Kalaupapa, 90% were Native Hawaiian;

WHEREAS, because many early residents were buried in unmarked graves and other markers have deteriorated over time or were washed out by the 1946 tsunami, only approximately 1,000 of the 8,000 buried at Kalaupapa have a grave that can be identified;

WHEREAS, the Memorial will have all 8,000 names inscribed for future generations to see and reconnect with their Kalaupapa 'ohana;

WHEREAS, Bernard K. Punikai'a, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1942 stated: You have to hear the voices to feel the people. You know their names. If you don't say the names, it's like something has been lost;

WHEREAS, the late Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa, a patient resident at Kalaupapa and past President of Ka 'Ohana Kalaupapa said, "When you see all the names on the Memorial, it will be like everyone from Kalawao and Kalaupapa is standing right there in front of you.";

WHEREAS, the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located in the Kalawao Settlement area on the peninsula within the site of the former Baldwin Boys Home, which is where patient residents had intended it to be established;

WHEREAS, Ka 'Ohana has received six historic preservation awards from Historic Hawai'i Foundation for its preservation work at Kalaupapa;

WHEREAS, at a meeting on October 16, 2015, the State Land Use Commission officially approved a declaration attesting to the fact that the establishment of the Memorial is a permitted use on the State-owned Baldwin Boys Home land because it considers the establishment of the Memorial to be "an improvement to a site of historic or scenic interest," as provided for under the law "HRS § 205-4.5(a)(8)";

WHEREAS, the Memorial location is on ceded lands that provide the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a stakeholder interest in the land, and, as such, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the Memorial and its design and deems it an appropriate use of this ceded land;

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports and honors Ka 'Ohana and the patients, especially, in providing the wisdom for the way we shall commemorate those whose names will rest on the Memorial;

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the importance of the relationships, and that emotional ties between past and present patients and generations of 'ohana members are deeply sensitive matters; and,

WHEREAS, it is Hawaiian custom to look up to kūpuna, our elders, for guidance and instruction because of the wisdom they possess. Ka 'Ohana had fulfilled that role.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLED, the undersigned duly recognized as the board chair and trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, on the 18th day of August 2022, do set forth their hand to recognize the sacred 'āina of Kalaupapa National Historical Park and Kalawao County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the unwavering commitment commitment, mālama and 'ike of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa for the many projects helping the people of Kalaupapa, especially the Native Hawaiian Community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes how the commitment of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has touched the lives of many and provided a path toward healing for the people of Kalaupapa, throughout the lāhui, in the State of Hawai'i and beyond ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's vision, planning, funding and advocacy efforts will come to fruition upon the completion of the Kalaupapa Memorial within the Kalaupapa National Historical Park; and,

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa; United States Secretary of the Interior; Director of National Park Services; Hawai'i's U.S. Congressional Delegation; Chairperson of the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources; Governor of the State of Hawai'i; President of the Senate, State of Hawai'i; Speaker of the House, State of Hawai'i; Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs; Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs; State Senator for the Island of Moloka'i; State Representative for the Island of Moloka'i; Chair of the Maui County Council, and all County Mayors.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of August 2022, island of O'ahu, State of Hawai'i, by the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in its regular meeting assembled.

Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey

Carmen "Hulu" Lindsey
Chairperson, Trustee, Maui

osk

Leina'ala Abu Isa, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Trustee, At-large

Dan Ahuna

Dan Ahuna
Trustee, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau

Kaleihikina Akaka

Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee, O'ahu

Keli'i Akina

Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
Trustee, At-large

Luana Alapa

Luana Alapa
Trustee, Moloka'i and Lāna'i

Brendon Kalei'āina Lee
Trustee, At-large

Mililani B. Trask

Mililani B. Trask
Trustee, Hawai'i

John D. Waihe'e IV

John D. Waihe'e IV
Trustee, At-large

Date: _____

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS

THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL- *IN SPIRIT WE ARE ALL TOGETHER*

Words of the Kalaupapa Patient Residents and other about the importance of the Memorial listing the names of all of the approximate 8,000 individuals forcibly separated from their families and homes and exiled to Kalaupapa by government because they were diagnosed with leprosy (now also called Hansen's disease.)

A RESOLUTION OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Recognizing the sacred 'aina of Kalaupapa National Historical Park and Kalawao County by honoring the Kalaupapa memorial and the unwavering efforts of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

POST BY HISTORIC HAWAII ASSOCIATION

Governor David Ige signs Senate Bill in law in 2022 appropriating \$5 million dollars for The Kalaupapa Memorial enabling the dreams of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, an organization conceived of and founded by Kalaupapa patient residents to come closer to fruition after 20 years.

KA 'OHANA BROCHURE ENTITLED "20 YEARS OF PAVING A NEW PATHBN - 2003 -2023

Summarizing some of the many accomplishments of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in pictures and words

KA 'OHANA NEWSLETTER ENTITLED " THE FUTURE IF KALAUPAPA: Will the Voices of the People Finally Be Heard?

KA 'OHAHA NEWSLETTER 2025 ENTITLED, BERNARD KA'OWAKAOKALANI PUNIKAI'A OUR BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY.

Reporting on event sponsored by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa at Queen Emma's Summer Palace on Oahu attended by, among many others, Bishop Larry Silva, and two former Governors Abercrombie and Waihee

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LOKahi • JUSTICE • EDUCATE • DIGNITY • HOPE FOR THE BEST • MALAMA • CULTURAL HERITAGE • PROMOTE

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"I want to see a monument honoring the people of Kalaupapa before I die."

"I want to see all the names. These people are my friends—even though many of them died before I came here and I didn't know them personally. In spirit we are all together. I know their hearts and souls."

— **Olivia Breitha**, author, sent to Kalaupapa in 1937. Mrs. Breitha died in 2006 on the day that these very words were read into the Congressional record in Washington D.C.
Photo: Valerie Monson



Our Words of Foundation

When Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized a 2003, participants were asked to express, in a single word or phrase, what they hoped the Ohana would represent. That list of words, located around the border of these pages, continues to guide all of our activities and programs.

"Everybody's name... I want to see their names on the Memorial... I want my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know that we were here."

— **Kuulei Bell** postmistress, first President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, sent to Kalaupapa in 1956.
Photo: DeGray Vanderbilt

"It is good for people to remember who were here before us. It is just like those who went to war and died, there are monuments with their names on it. My mother was also sent to Kalaupapa."

— **Peter Keola Jr.**, tour driver and musician, sent to Kalaupapa in 1940.
Photo: Valerie Monson

"I think we deserve to be remembered. We are part of this world. We didn't want to be sent here. It was for the safety of other people that we were put away. Greater love hath no man than to give up his life for a friend. That's what we did."

— **Catherine Puahala**, sent to Kalaupapa in 1942, a few years after being taken away from her family at age 9.
Photo: Valerie Monson

"You have to hear the voices to feel the people. You have to know their names. If you don't say the names, it's like something has been lost."

— **Bernard K. Puniaia**, songwriter, musician and human rights activist, sent to Kalaupapa in 1942.
Photo: Valerie Monson

"When you see all the names on the Memorial, it will be like everyone from Kalawao and Kalaupapa is standing right in front of you. It will bring tears to my eye."

— **Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa**, President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, taken from his family in 1950 when he was 9, the fourth child his parents were forced to give up.
Photo: Valerie Monson

"The passage of the Kalaupapa Memorial Act should be a proud moment for all Americans. We will now be able to recognize the Hansen's disease patients of Kalaupapa for the way they led dignified, inspirational lives under extremely challenging circumstances. I would like to thank the members of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa for their ongoing efforts... I will continue to work with them until the Kalaupapa Memorial becomes a reality."

— **Representative Mazie Hirono** (now Senator Hirono) from press release announcing the signing of the Kalaupapa Memorial Act into law by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2009.
Photo: Valerie Monson

"...The memorial will be their everlasting presence at Kalaupapa, memorialized as a profound chapter in the history book of Hawaii, the United States and the World."

— **Pauline Ka'ulani Hess**, daughter of Catherine and Jubilee Puahala, testimony in support of The Kalaupapa Memorial Act.
Photo: Wayne Levin

ALOHA • EMPOWERMENT • PERSEVERANCE • SUPPORT • INTEGRITY • TRUST IN THE LORD • FAMILY • CONTINUITY

• GETTING ALONG • HUMILITY • RESPECT • HONOR • COMPASSION • LEGACY • ADVOCATE • COMMUNITY • MANA •

• PERPETUATE • DEDICATION • ENVIRONMENT • LIVING MONUMENT

Historic Hawaii Foundation

Governor Ige Signs Bill Appropriating \$5 Million for The Kalaupapa Memorial
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's dreams coming closer to fruition after 20 years



Governor David Ige signs Senate Bill 3338 – The Kalaupapa Memorial funding bill for \$5 million – with key supporters looking on. From left: Valerie Monson, Executive Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa; UH President David Lassner; Senator Brian Taniguchi; Danette Wong Tomiyasu, Deputy Director of Health Resources, the State Department of Health; Governor Ige; DeGray Vanderbilt, Legislative Liaison for Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa; Hitoshi Hida, architect who created the design for the Memorial; Senator Lynn DeCoite; Kalaupapa descendant Nainoa Woodward and his grandparents, Margaret and Aaron Wong. Ka 'Ohana supporters are holding photos of Kalaupapa leaders Bernard Punikai'a, Boogie Kahilihiwa and Ku'ulei Bell who have all died and are buried at Kalaupapa. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor David Ige.

7/1/2022: Governor David Ige has signed a bill passed by the State Legislature that appropriates \$5 million to plan and build a memorial honoring the thousands of men, women and children once isolated on the Kalaupapa Peninsula of Moloka'i. Ige signed the bill on June 29th in a ceremony in his offices at the State Capitol.

The Governor singled out Senators Lynn DeCoite and Brian Taniguchi for their persistence in leading the effort in the State Senate to pass the bill to fund The Kalaupapa Memorial. Ige also praised Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the nonprofit organization made up of Kalaupapa residents, family members and friends that proposed the legislation and worked with lawmakers throughout the process.

"Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been working towards this Memorial for almost 20 years," he said. "Their determination and dedication to honoring the people of Kalaupapa is an inspiration to all of us...the emotional and heartfelt stories of Kalaupapa that you shared during public testimony certainly made a difference and often times symbolized the best in humanity."

The Kalaupapa Memorial was the idea of the residents of Kalaupapa. When Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized in 2003, the residents attending that first meeting asked that establishing a memorial be a priority of the new organization to honor the people who were taken from their families and forcibly isolated on the peninsula because they were diagnosed with leprosy, now also known as Hansen's disease. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act, directing the Secretary of the Interior to authorize Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish a memorial. Since that time, Ka 'Ohana has been working through various environmental review processes, developing a design for the Memorial and compiling the residents' names.

"This Memorial cannot remedy that part of Hawai'i's history, but it certainly gives us the opportunity to create a monument that can honor the memory and the legacy of those isolated at Kalaupapa. It is my hope that this will be a testament to the resilience of the residents of Kalaupapa and their determination."

- Governor David Ige

Valerie Monson, executive director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, thanked everyone involved with the long process of getting the bill from an idea to being signed.

"Thanks to each of you...all the names will be remembered, their legacies carried on," said Monson. "Descendants will be able to touch the name of their ancestor and feel a connection they will never forget."

Words of Advice from a Dedicated Preservationist

When HHF asked Monson if she would offer advice to other grassroots groups based on her own experiences, she was delighted with the opportunity, joking that it's something

she has had plenty of time to think about! Monson also provided further details about the Memorial's design and future location.

1. GRIT — AND FAITH

My first piece of advice: Never Give Up. I actually have a small banner hanging on our lanai that says, "Never Give Up" along with a quote from the Dalai Lama. There will be many times you want to give up on a big project—I can't tell you how many times I've dissolved in tears learning that we had yet another hurdle to clear, another long process to navigate. Sometimes you have to buoy one another's spirits, pull up someone who might be very discouraged or simply exhausted.

You need a group of people—even a small group—who truly believes in the project, believes it is your responsibility, your kuleana, to work together to bring it to fruition. This small group can spread the enthusiasm to others.

2. VISION

I think the biggest reason for our success is that forming Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was the vision of Kalaupapa resident Bernard K. Punikai'a and his idea was embraced by his fellow residents. They were the ones who asked that a memorial be a priority during our organizational workshop in 2003 where family members and friends agreed to take on this important cause. We appointed a memorial committee at that first meeting, a committee still going today. The memorial is not the idea of outsiders, it has been the longtime wish of the residents, many of whom have passed away.

We are doing this in their memory to make sure everyone at Kalaupapa is remembered by name and that their descendants have a place for healing, reconnection and pride.

— Valerie Monson, executive director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

3. KNOWLEDGE

You need to understand the various processes facing you and that some of these processes will take a lot of time and patience. Over the past 20 years, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has had to get bills approved by both the US Congress (signed by President Obama) and the State Legislature (signed by Governor Ige). Both of those processes took an enormous amount of work.

We have had to get approvals from the State Board of Land and Natural Resources and the State Land Use Commission. We were also required to get both a state and federal Environmental Assessment approved while continuing to raise funds along the way. Our 'Ohana historian has been working for years on compiling and refining the list of nearly 8,000 names that will be displayed on the Memorial. Each of these steps has taken a great deal of time, preparation, obtaining testimonies of support, attending meetings and follow-up. Some of these steps took years to accomplish.

It's crucial to find someone who has some experience with state EAs and EIS' to help you. These processes are just so cumbersome and technical—it's like learning to use a computer on your own if you've grown up with pencil and paper. We were fortunate that a planner offered to do the state EA for us.

4. CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

One area where Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been especially blessed is that we always seem to find the right person at the right time. On this journey, we have met new people along the way who have the exact expertise we need, and who become equally excited when they hear about the Memorial. Along the way, we have had planners, architects, engineers, contractors, historians, cultural specialists and others offer their guidance and services either pro-bono or at reduced rates. In addition, the members of our board have always had an array of talents that we can call upon when needed.

We were fortunate to have two former National Park Superintendents on our Memorial Committee: Henry Law, the first Superintendent of Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and Don Reeser, longtime Superintendent of Haleakala National Park now deceased, whose wife had family at Kalaupapa. They both were essential in helping us understand federal regulations.

The first architect to join us was Don Stastny, a Portland-based architect who helped with the design process of the Flight 93 and Oklahoma City Memorials.

5. OUTREACH

Spreading the word about your project effectively in order to generate enthusiasm in the community should always be a top priority. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa did this through a number of educational programs about Kalaupapa that we made available to the public and also traveled around the islands to meet people in person. Our programs are about the people of Kalaupapa and their history so all are related to the Memorial.

Equally important: be prepared to constantly bring in volunteers. Over time, even your most dedicated volunteers who have contributed enormously will face family or job commitments, or even burn-out, that will force them to step down. New volunteers with new energy are always needed to keep things rolling. It's important that you find the right roles for the various volunteers to tap into their strengths and suit the amount of time they are able to contribute, enabling them to enjoy what they are doing.

We are still far from completing this project. In addition to the \$5 million appropriated by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor David Ige, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa will raise an endowment of \$5 million to make sure the Memorial is cared for and maintained. We have already started on this process. And, of course, we still need to actually build the Memorial.

The future Kalaupapa Memorial. Image courtesy of G70.

Interlocking Circles Center the Memorial's Theme

The centerpiece of the Kalaupapa Memorial will be the display of the names of all the nearly 8,000 men, women and children who were taken from their families and forcibly isolated on the peninsula. Having the names permanently displayed will honor the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa and help ensure that the history of Kalaupapa will be presented in a more accurate and historic way.

The Memorial design features two interlocking circles. The upper circle represents the people who were taken from their families and forcibly isolated on the peninsula. Their names will be engraved on the slabs along the circle's interior.

The lower circle represents the families who were left behind and their descendants. Where the circles come together — under the lattice structure in the middle — represents what Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has always envisioned: reuniting the people of Kalaupapa with their families and descendants.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa began the design process from the ground up. We brought together the Kalaupapa Memorial Committee with others who we felt would add to the design process and had our first meeting in the OHA Board Room on a Saturday, compliments of Colette Machado, a strong supporter of the Memorial. We began by talking about what we wanted the memorial to represent and the values associated with it. When it came to the design itself, we started out with the basics: would it be designed in a rectangle shape? In waves? In circles? Linear? Other criteria and design elements were discussed at various meetings, including the annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa at Kalaupapa.

After six months of meetings, a brainstorming workshop was held at the site of the Memorial where a select group of family members, cultural specialists and professionals came together to envision a design. This is when Hitoshi Hida, an architect with G70, shared his idea of interlocking circles. Everyone in attendance loved the idea and began fleshing it out. Family members were so enthused they built an 'ahu at what will be the piko of the circles that form the Memorial.

The Memorial will be located on the long-vacant grounds of the Old Baldwin Home across the road from St. Philomena Church (Damien's Church). This location was chosen because it was the near-unanimous choice of Kalaupapa residents and was decided after public scoping meetings. The State Land Board approved the location in an Environmental Assessment.

The Memorial site is also situated across the road from a field of 2,000 unmarked graves — the names of these individuals will be engraved on the Memorial. In addition, Siloama Church, the first church built at Kalawao, is nearby. The Most Rev. Larry Silva, Bishop of

Honolulu, said the Memorial will "enhance the feeling of sacred space" of the area of historic churches and graves.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will serve as a lasting symbol of justice and a place where descendants can find healing and pride.

"You have to know their names. If you don't say the names, it's like something has been lost."

- The late Bernard K. Punikai'a, champion of justice and founder of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"When you see all the names on the Memorial, it will be like everyone from Kalawao and Kalaupapa is standing right in front of you. It will bring tears to my eyes."

- The late Boogie Kahilihiwa, president of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, 2009-2021

HHF sends a big mahalo to Valerie Monson for sharing her insight and inspiration!

Further reference:

- The Kalaupapa National Historic Landmark designation: [Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement – Historic Hawaii Foundation](#)
- ["Saving the Neighborhood" Booklet](#) for grassroots campaigns

Ko'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau...
... To Honor and To Perpetuate"

Kalaupapa

In Spirit We are All Together: **The Kalaupapa Memorial**



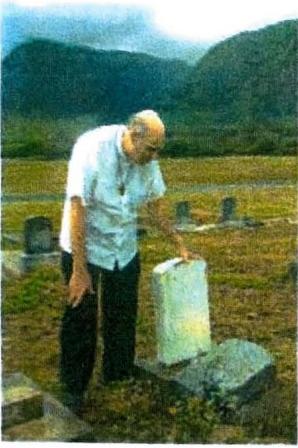
The family of the late Ed Weight gather at the future site of the Kalaupapa Memorial with friends Boogie and Ivy Kahilihiwa on February 28, 2015. Ed was born at Kalaupapa on December 27, 1930 to Harold Weight and Marcia Ka-ne. He died December 8, 2014.

Photo: Valerie Monson



"The former Old Baldwin Home site is ideal... HCUCC is committed to assisting Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in its efforts to see the Memorial through to its completion."

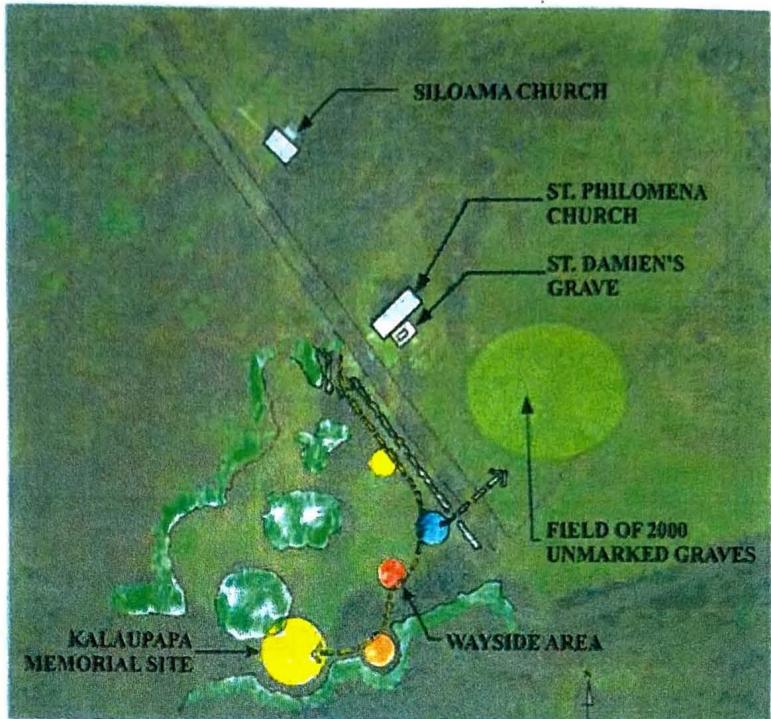
—The Reverend Charles Buck,
Conference Minister, Hawaii
Conference, United Church of
Christ letter to Ka 'Ohana O
Kalaupapa, March 18, 2015.
Photo: Wayne Levin



"The area of Kalawao is a sacred place... The Memorial would serve as kind of a communal headstone so that all buried on the Peninsula, whether in marked or unmarked graves, could be remembered."

—The Most Reverend Larry Silva,
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of
Honolulu, whose 'ohana lies buried
at Kalaupapa.
Photo: Wayne Levin

Conceptual Site Diagram



The owners of both churches shown on the diagram above, the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu (St. Philomena Church) and the Hawaii Conference, United Church of Christ (Siloama Church) are both strong supporters of the Kalaupapa Memorial being located on the neighboring site of the former Old Baldwin Boys Home.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau... .

... To Honor and To Perpetuate"

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