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KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT

Signed into law by President Barack Obama March 30, 20009 directing the Secretary of the Interior to authorize Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish at Kalaupapa

BROCHURE: 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 a disease .....leprosy

CATHOLIC HERALD SEPTEMBER 2025 ARTICLE ENTITLED: GATHERING HONORS LEGACY OF THE LATE KALAUPAPA 'VISIONARY LEADER'

Also included is full welcoming speech at gather by Governor John Waihee

SUPPORT STATEMENTS FOR KA' OHANA O KALAUPAPA AND THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL

Statement of support from Senator Mazie Hirono and other government officials

TESTIMONIES ON SENATE BILL 1432 DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Testimonies form, among others, Gloria Marks, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board Member; Keani Rawlins, Member Maui County Council; Office of Hawaiian Affairs

STATE OF HAWAII APOLOGY RESOLUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA (2008)

SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS LENDING SUPPORT FOR THE HISTORIC BALDWIN BOYS HOME SITE BEING IDEAL FOR AS THE SITE FOR THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL TO BE ESTABLISHED ON

A RESOLUTION OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS SUPPORTING KA 'OHANA O KALAUPAPA

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

A POST BY HISTORIC HAWAII ASSOCIATION ON IT'S WEBSITE REGARDING STATE APPROPRIATING $5,000,000 FOR THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL

RECEIVED FROM DEGRAY VANDERBILT

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 PATH - 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 August 23, 2025 at Queen Emma's Summer Palace on Oahu attended by, among many others, Bishop Larry Silva, and two former Governors Abercrombie and Waihee

The Kalaupapa Memorial Act

SECTION 7108. of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009:

(a) In General- The Secretary of Interior shall 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 at a suitable location or locations approved by the Secretary at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, in the State of Hawaii, to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969.

(b) Design-

IN GENERAL- The memorial authorized by subsection (a) shall--

display in an appropriate manner the names of the first 5,000 individuals sent to the Kalaupapa Peninsula between 1866 and 1896, most of whom lived at Kalawao; and

display in an appropriate manner the names of the approximately 3,000 individuals who arrived at Kalaupapa in the second part of its history, when most of the community was concentrated on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula.

APPROVAL- The location, size, design, and inscriptions of the memorial authorized by subsection (a) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) Funding- Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa, a nonprofit organization, shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for and payment of the expenses associated with the establishment of the memorial

Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa

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

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

• PONO • DIRECTION • UNDERSTANDING • COMMUNICATION • CHERISH • EFFORT • LOVE • UNITY • REMEMBER •

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

• CONSERVATION • HO'OPONOPONO • COMMITMENT • AWARENESS

• PERPETUATE • DEDICATION • ENVIRONMENT • LIVING MONUMENT

"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 Manson

"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 Manson

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

Our Words of Foundation

When Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized in 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.

"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. Punikai'a,** songwriter, musician and human rights activist, sent to Kalaupapa in 1942.
Photo: Valerie Manson

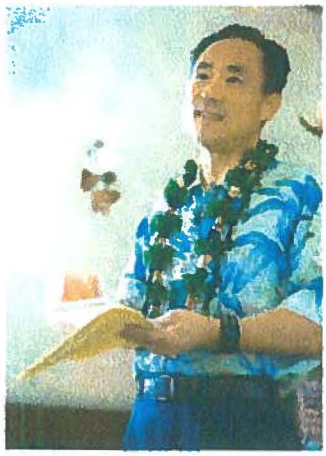
"When you see all the names on the Memorial, it will be like everyone from Kalawao and Kalaupapa is standing right in front of you. It will bring tears to my eyes."
—**Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa,** President of Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa, taken from his family in 1950 when he was 9, the fourth child his parents were forced to give up.
Photo: Valerie Manson

"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 Manson

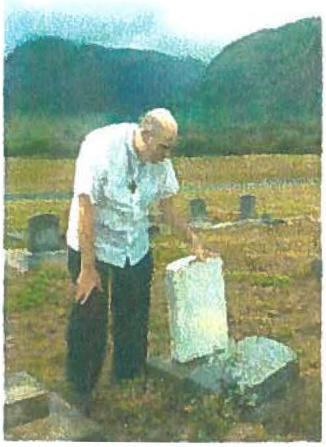
"…The memorial will be their everlasting presence at Kalaupapa, memorialized as a profound chapter in the history book of Hawaii, the United States and the World."
—**Pauline Ka'Iulani Hess,** daughter of Catherine and Jubilee Puahala, testimony in support of The Kalaupapa Memorial Act.
Photo: Wayne Levin

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

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

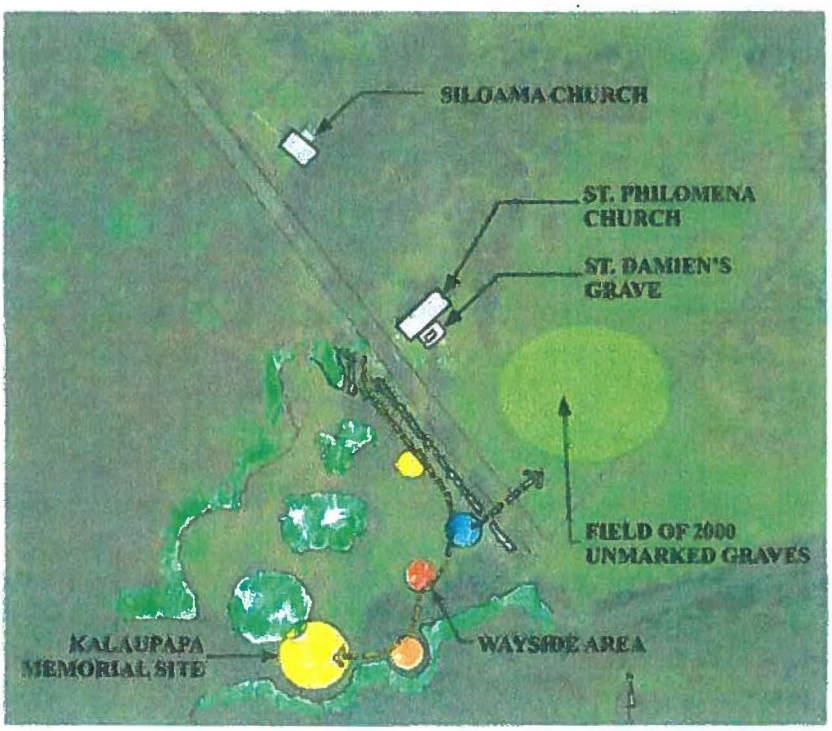


"The former Old Baldwin Home site is ideal... HCUCC is committed to assisting Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in its efforts to see the Memorial through to its completion."
—The Reverend Charles Buck, Conference Minister, Hawaii Conference, United Church of Christin letter to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, March 18, 2015.
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"
P.O. Box 1111
Kalaupapa HI 96742
Email: info@kalaupapaohana.org
www.kalaupapaohana.org

HAWAII
CATHOLIC
HERALD

Gathering honors legacy of late Kalaupapa 'visionary leader'

HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

Former Gov. John Waihe'e addressed the crowd Aug. 23 at a celebration of the late Bernard Ka'owakaokalani Punikai'a's 95th birthday and of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the nonprofit organization he created more than two decades ago. "Bernard's life is a celebration of making things better for people," Waihe'e said. (Courtesy Wayne Levin)

By Valerie Monson
Special to the Herald

Two governors, the Bishop of Honolulu and descendants of Kalaupapa came together last month at the Queen Emma Summer Palace for the same reason: to proudly remember the late Bernard Ka'owakaokalani Punikai'a, the Kalaupapa warrior who stood up to government when the voices of the people were left out.

Punikai'a died in 2009, but his legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of those who learned from him, admired him and loved him.

"I started weeping the second I came through the door," said former Gov. Neil Abercrombie, who described his longtime friend as his "hero."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the nonprofit organization that was created by Punikai'a in 2003 to bring together family members and friends to support the residents of Kalaupapa, hosted the event with the Daughters of Hawai'i. The occasion was to mark what would have been Punikai'a's 95th birthday.

Although Punikai'a was not there physically, his presence was everywhere. Photographs of him and of his greatest triumph — the Save Hale Mohalu movement — lined the hale next to the palace, his music resonated from musician Lopaka Ho'opi'i, and memories of Punikai'a were on the lips of everyone in attendance, recalling how he inspired them or helped others.

"That's the importance of our gathering today," said former Gov. John Waihe'e, a longtime friend of Punikai'a. "Bernard's life is a celebration of making things better for people."

Bishop Larry Silva opened the gathering with a prayer of remembrance for Punikai'a, while citing Sts. Damien and Marianne and all the people who were sent to Kalaupapa because they were said to have had Hansen's disease, also called leprosy. (Bishop Silva also has ancestors who died there.)

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 his life was needed 15 years after his death: to forever remember a man who stood up for the people of Kalaupapa no matter what hardships he had to endure himself.

"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. "Happy 95th birthday to our visionary leader!"

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

The people of Kalaupapa have wanted a memorial for the past 40 years — to honor and remember each person who gave up their freedoms and still managed to find hope and happiness through one another and the strong sense of community that they developed.

When Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized, Punikai'a and other residents asked that the memorial be a priority so everyone's name would never be forgotten.

For 22 years, Ka 'Ohana has worked tirelessly to create a design of the memorial, complete

endless reports and obtain state and federal approvals in the complex government process that seems to get more complicated every year.

It was Punikai'a who made the first donation to the memorial in 2007 when he wrote a check for $500 — and asked if he should give more. The state Legislature unanimously approved $5 million for planning and construction of the memorial in 2022, but it has taken years for the first portion of those funds to be released.

Waihe'e urged everyone in the crowd to advocate for the memorial to be built as soon as possible. He also acknowledged the recent passing of Kalaupapa resident Danny Hashimoto, leaving just six residents who have the right to live at Kalaupapa.

"All of us have a challenge, and that is to join together, to bring forth Bernard's dream of a memorial at Kalaupapa, so that the future will never forget the sacrifices made," Waihe'e said.

Valerie Monson is executive director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.

FEATURES LOCAL NEWS

BERNARD KA'OWAKAOKALANI PUNIKAI'A KA OHANA O KALAUPAPA KALAUPAPA QUEEN EMMA SUMMER PALACE

GOVERNOR JOHN WAIHEE WELCOMING SPEECH AUGUST 23, 2025 AT QUEEN EMMA SUMMER PALACE ON OAHU

It's honor this afternoon to welcome all of you on behalf of Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa and all of us who are working so diligently to make sure that we have a Memorial at Kalaupapa. That idea, by the way, began with Bernard and the patients at Kalaupapa.

Actually, first I have to tell you some stories. You never let somebody like me get a chance to talk, not expect to hear some stories. Okay?

I actually met Bernard protesting the bombing of Kaho'olawe. Nothing to do with Kalaupapa, nothing to do with leprosy or any other deed, he was protesting the bombing of Kaho'olawe because his interest was always where there was injustice. When something was wrong that needed to be right, you would find him there.

And then later on, I met him during to save Hale Mohalu battle. Now, here's the thing about our situation, is that when you tell people the story of Kalaupapa, they're horrified. We would never do that. We would never take people and just dump 'em in the water and let 'em go there and fend for themselves. We would never do that. Oh, never, never. And yet, while we would never be that cruel, obviously sometimes our arrogance, the arrogance of believing you are right, and people don't know how to do their own lives, takes over. See, that was what was happening in Hale Mohalu.

(02:24)
People who thought they knew were insisting there was better for patients to be located at Leahi Hospital, an institution so that we can watch you 24 hours. So we can treat you like a patient. You shouldn't be at Hale Mohalu where you would live like a human being.

See arrogance sometimes in our zeal to be helpful, we forget about the patients, we forget about their rights. Most people would've gone along with that kind of thinking. Most people would've said, if my doctor said it was better for me to be in an institution, I should do it. But one voice shouted out and said, "No!" . That was Bernard. No, we are people and you need to treat us that. Arrogance, that's what it is.

And I'm no different. When I was Governor at the beginning of my term, requests came to me and they said, why can't we have children visiting Kalaupapa.

I don't know. Why not? That's a good idea. Families can go there, they can see this. And yet the patients there did not want it. And so I said, okay, we'll go along with them. But I didn't . You see I never understood what that was about until I heard Bernard talk about his experience, what it was like to be a 6-year-old child and pulled away from your parents,what it was like to grow up, having to see them and never being able to touch them, what it was like to be there and have security guards walking with them when they came close to you. You see, that never happened to me. So I never understood, but I appreciated where he was coming from.

So I put him on the Department's Board of Health. You need to spread that message. And years later, I'm standing with a group of patients at Kalaupapa, and we're talking about a Memorial. We are talking about billing a memorial right across from where thousands of people were just dumped into an empty grave so that we can remember the patients and what they went through in this horrible experience.

That what, 20 years ago, years and years ago. And the people have been working on that project till today. Till today. They even raised money at the Hawaii State Legislature to support that project. Bernard was the key in that effort.

And you know what? We almost lost those dollars. Almost lost the money because well-meaning people arrogantly said, "Well, you can go back and ask for it again, but we don't know what to do with it, so we're going to let it lapse.

Fortunately, it took the intervention of the governor to make sure the funds did not lapse. Arrogance. Now before the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and everybody's got an excuse, everybody's got an excuse. We are not this. We are not that.

You see well meaning, and ultimately the same result. Nothing gets better. Fortunately, we have a governor who went, who has said he intends, and I hope he keeps the promise to invite the Pope to Hawaii. Hope Leo to visit Kalaupapa. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

We've got two Saints from Kalaupapa, St. Damien and St. Maryanne. There's a third Saint lurking, Blessed Joseph. Wouldn't it be nice to have a third Saint from Kalaupapa? Wouldn't it be nice to have a Memorial?

So that is our job. My welcome is a challenge to all of us to follow Bernard's footsteps. Danny Hashimoto just passed away. How many more people need to be lost? So I am hoping that we once again hear the voices, once again overcome what we think is goodness that's actually arrogance.

That's the importance of our gathering today, Bernard's life is a celebration of making things better for people. In my mind's eye, I can see him when he passed away, being greeted by Father Damien, by Sister Marianne, by Blessed Joseph. Mahalo, for being the voice of people that nobody else would've been listening to.

All of us have a challenge, and that is to join together, to bring his dream of a Memorial at Kalaupapa so that future will never forget the sacrifices made.

Aloha everybody, and welcome.

Excerpt from letter dated January 19, 2012 to Kalaupapa National Historical Park Federal Advisory Commission from Richard Pezzulo, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

"The Administration of the OHA supports the commissioners, the commission's recommending the ownership and long-term management of the memorial to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa (Ka 'Ohana), a Native Hawaiian organization of Hansen's patients and others, and will also recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees (BOT) adopt this position of support.

Given Ka 'Ohana's standing, desire, efforts and funding in the establishment of the memorial, and absent any compelling legal justification precluding this engagement as an owner having long-term managing responsibilities, it behooves stakeholders to acknowledge the merits of a lasting bond with Ka 'Ohana and the memorial in perpetuity. It is Hawaiian custom to look up to kupuna, our elders, for guidance and instruction because of the wisdom they possess. In that vein, OHA looks up to Ka 'Ohana, and the patients especially with kupuna roles, in providing that wisdom for the way we shall commemorate those whose names will rest on the memorial.

Recognizing the importance of the relationships and emotional ties between past and present patients and generations of ohana members are deeply sensitive matters indeed, and the religious or spiritual issues attached to such undertakings are perhaps outside the purview of government."

2015 Comment letter to NPS regarding the Kalaupapa General Management Plan from Don Jones, formerly with State Department of Health, he State agency which administers operations at Kalaupapa National Historical Park

As you may know, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was founded as a nonprofit by the Kalaupapa patents, family members and longtime friends and supporters. Where I'm going with this is to recommend for the NPS KALA Management Team to gain input and collaboration with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.

Yes, I understand that the 'Ohana may not always exactly agree with NPS plans and polices. Similarly NPS may not always exactly agree with positions taken by the 'Ohana. But please understand that the 'Ohana and its individual members do not intend to become your adversaries. In my view the long range interests and goals of the NPS at Kalaupapa can be supported and enriched by cooperation and collaboration with the 'Ohana.

Please give consideration to the 2009 'Ohana Position paper written with the support of the patient community and the endorsement of the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Please also note the progress made by the 'Ohana in the development of the "Restoration of Family Ties" program at Kalaupapa. Recognition from the Historic Hawaii Foundation for the 'Ohana's work in bringing the history of Kalaupapa to U of H Manoa, community colleges, museums, public places. Now promoted as history for schools throughout the state.

Testimony of Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu before State Legislature in support of Kalaupapa Month Bill designating January as "Kalaupapa Month" throughout the State.

I have two relatives who were sent to Kaluapapa. Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa, which represents patients at Kalaupapa as well as ohana of current and former patients, has endorsed this bill, and its passage would mean so much to them all.

Testimony of Don Reeser, retired NPS Superintendent at July 26, 2013 meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Reeser: Aloha Chairman Aila and Board member. My name is Don Reeser. I'm from Makawao, and I am here to support he the 'Ohana's request for a 65-year lease.

I submitted some formal comments. I'll try to summarize.

Actually I've worked for the National Park Service for 41 years. I was Resource Chief at Hawaii Volcanoes for eleven, then served for 17 years at Haleakala, retiring in 2005.

Actually the Memorial Committee has another Superintendent, Henry Law, who submitted testimony, and he's on the Memorial Committee also.

I also have a family tie because of my late wife Henrietta Weber Reeser from Hakalau. We were amazed in the 1990's, we learned that her great grandmother died at Kalaupapa, going there in 1911 and dying in 1917. It was a family secret that was common back in those days.

So my wife got involved, and she served on the Memorial Committee, but she died in 2007. The 'Ohana asked me to serve on the Memorial Committee in her place, which I have.

She felt strongly that there should be a Memorial for those that died, nearly 8,000.

I've been working with the 'Ohana and have been really impressed with what they've been doing. They had to go to Congress to get the law passed (in order to establish the Memorial). They've gone around the State seeking support for the Memorial, they've done the list of names, they're working on the list of names, which is vital.

A group like that, whereas you have National Park people transferring in and out, local people who've committed to the land there, form some sort of continuity that gives empathy in the role of interpretation of programs there that is really important.

So basically I think it is really important that you give the 65-year lease. It's important for the fundraising effort and it tells everybody that this is really an important Memorial—and if you only give a 10 or 20 year lease, I think you're saying, " Well, you know, it's not quite that important."

But this is really important. And it's going to rank in significance with any existing Memorials in the State.

Land Board Chair William Aila: Members, any questions?

Land Board Commissioner David Goode: Don, in your 41 years in the Park Service you probably have a better crystal ball than some of us. Do you see that the National Park Service is going to be interested in taking over the long-term maintenance and operation of this facility?

Mr. Reeser: I think that's always an option. For some reason the Park Service in the beginning wasn't supporting the effort before Congress. I'm not sure why that was. I felt that it was something that was natural that the National Park Service would want to support and work out an agreement (with the 'Ohana) but for some reason they drug their feet over the years and that's why it has taken so long.

Land Board Commissioner Sam Gon: Don, were you involved with the 'Ohana at the time National Park Service was kind of hesitant on this? And were you able to talk to them?

Mr. Reeser: Yes, I was involved and I wasn't clear on why there was some reluctance to really put the effort in to support this proposal, work of the patients and their family members and cut through a lot of the red tape to make this happen, which I think it would have happened if they would have been a little more supportive to tell you the truth. I don't know why that is. I think there must have been someone, somewhere that got the idea that this wasn't a good idea, and I've never understood it.

Statement: Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Vice Chair State Land Use Commission (LUC) at October 16, 2016 LUC meeting. Mr. Scheuer has over 20 years experience in public policy and land management in the public, non profit, and private sectors, in the Native Hawaiian and broader communities. Mr. Scheuer has since been promoted to Chair of the LUC.

COMMISSIONER SCHEUER: Mr. Chair, I think it would, in my heart, be improper to sort of not mark the slight perversity of the fact that we're dealing in a situation where we're trying to memorialize people who were under the force of law sent to a place away from their family, and then to say it's coming after you again because of the odd application of Kalawao County and our state. It's an odd, perhaps perverse situation.

I want to thank the 'Ohana in particular for their perseverance in this matter and for helping us all to **understand the deep significance of what you're trying to mark. Mahalo.**

COMMISSIONER CABRAL: I agree that this is a wonderful event that you're negotiating and working for, but I want clarification. I can't imagine, but could be, is there any opposition to this in any way or form that we have received?

CHAIRPERSON ACZON: No.

SOURCE: Verbatim Transcript by McManus Court Reporters, transcribed by Jean Marie McManus.

Gloria L. Marks
c/o Hale Mohalu, Leahi Hospital
3675 Kilauea Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

March 12, 2025

Aloha Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the House Committee on Health

I am Gloria Marks a resident of Kalaupapa now residing at Hale Mohalu in the Leahi Hospital.I am a member of the Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors. I have attached a picture, which means a lot to me. It shows the last three Kalaupapa patient residents on the Ka 'Ohana Board of Directors, Boogie Kahilihiwa, Pauline Chow and me. Both Boogie, who is a past President of Ka 'Ohana and Pauline recently passed away.

I am unable to attend your hearing on Senate Bill 1432, so I am submitting my written testimony. I hope that your Committee supports the amendments to the Bill, which were approved by the Senate WAM committee, especially the ones that called for Ka 'Ohana and a topside Molokai community organization to be included as members of the all government transition planning team that is developing a transition plan for the future management and operations of Kalaupapa when there is no longer a patient community there. These amendments adopted by the WAM Committee are reasonable and presented to highlight the fact that Ka 'Ohana has a Congressional authority to operate at Kalaupapa, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama,

Ka 'Ohana is on the same level as a major Kalaupapa stakeholder as the other five entities, all government agencies, that operate at Kalaupapa by authoirity given to them by federal or state statute. Yet the Government agencies continue to dismiss Ka 'Ohana, despite the fact that our organization is one conceived and fostered by patient reisdents of Kalaupapa. Given this fact, Ka 'Ohana certainly must be at the table with government agencies at any future meetings where there is any discussion regarding the future of management and operations at Kalaupapa and its legacy.

Thank you for this opporetunity to provide your Committee with my written testimony.

Respectfully submitted

Gloria L. Marks
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board member.


Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
Boogie

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 11, 2025

MEMO TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Chair Gregg Takayama and Vice Chair Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy

FROM: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

SUBJECT: **PLEASE DEFER SB1432 SD2 – KALAWAO COUNTY**

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1432 SD2, relating to the changes to responsibilities of the Department of Health concerning patients, the County of Kalawao, and the Kalaupapa Settlement. I respectfully ask that this committee defer this measure for this legislative session.

While I appreciate the Department of Health introducing this measure, the broader Molokai community and our County government have not had the opportunity to fully discuss all the implications related to this bill.

At the end of last year, the state and federal agencies for the first time hosted a meeting on topside Molokai. The purpose of that meeting was to present the history of the agencies' involvement on the Makanalua Peninsula and greater jurisdiction under Kalawao County. The agencies represented at this meeting included the Department of Health, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and National Parks Services.

I happily volunteered to spearhead community meetings after this legislative session. I'm sure our community will be ready to take a position on the proposed action.

Mahalo for your consideration in giving our Molokai community a little more time.

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1432 SD2
RELATING TO KALAUPAPA

House Committees on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 12, 2025 | 9:00 am | Room 329

Aloha e Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1432 SD2, which seeks to establish the Kalaupapa State Historical Area, ensure the continued provision of services to Hansen's disease patients, and plan for the transition of Kalaupapa Settlement upon the passing of its last patient resident. This measure provides a necessary framework for an inclusive, transparent, and culturally respectful transition process that recognizes the historical and cultural significance of Kalaupapa while ensuring that Native Hawaiian perspectives are integral to future decision-making.

The land upon which Kalaupapa Settlement sits is part of the ceded lands trust, and any transition of control must recognize the trust responsibilities owed to Native Hawaiians. OHA's engagement in this process would provide critical oversight and advocacy to ensure that future governance, access, and management decisions align with the values and priorities of the Native Hawaiian community. Accordingly, OHA requests that it be formally included in this process given its fiduciary duty to Native Hawaiians, its expertise in land management, and its long-standing commitment to protecting sites of historical and cultural importance. OHA's involvement would help ensure that Native Hawaiian interests, particularly those tied to the preservation of Kalaupapa's legacy and the proper stewardship of ceded lands, are effectively represented.

OHA appreciates the inclusion of community stakeholders in the planning process and echoes concerns raised that the details regarding the permanent transfer of Kalaupapa Settlement must be more transparent and inclusive. The request for the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to submit a preliminary transition plan by 2026 is a step in the right direction. However, we emphasize that meaningful engagement must extend beyond state agencies to include community organizations, 'ohana of Kalaupapa patients, and Native Hawaiian stakeholders at every stage of planning.

SB1432 SD2 provides an important opportunity to commemorate and preserve the legacy of Kalaupapa through the establishment of the Kalaupapa State Historical Area. OHA has long supported efforts to recognize the history of Kalaupapa, including the development of the Kalaupapa Memorial, which will honor the names of over 8,000 individuals sent to Kalaupapa—90% of whom were Native Hawaiian. We urge that the transition process incorporate commitments to the preservation of cultural sites, the memorialization of Kalaupapa's history, and continued public education about the significance of the settlement.

OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB1432 SD2 with amendments to formally include OHA in the transition planning process and to ensure that Native Hawaiian perspectives are central to all future decisions regarding Kalaupapa Settlement. This measure provides an essential framework for honoring Kalaupapa's history while fostering a transparent, inclusive, and respectful transition process that aligns with the interests of Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

Legislative Accomplishments

2008 Regular Session Senate Majority Office

Kalaupapa; Acknowledgment and Apology. (SCR208, SD1) Recognizes, acknowledges, and expresses the Legislature's gratitude to the people of Kalaupapa and their families for their sacrifices, for thinking more of the public than of themselves, for giving up freedoms and opportunities the rest of society takes for granted, for rebuilding their lives with pride and dignity, for overcoming prejudice and discrimination, and for consistently reaching out to others in need. Acknowledges that while the Legislature does not confer any legal cause of action or any legal rights, remedies, relief, restitution, or reparations on any person with the adoption of this measure, it nonetheless apologizes for the past actions against, and treatment of, past and current residents of Kalaupapa.

Further acknowledges that this overdue action be issued with the utmost respect and admiration for those remaining Kalaupapa residents, the descendents of those who have died and family members who all have endured separation from loved ones and the anguish that came with it, with the hope that if any quarantine or isolation is necessary in the future to protect public health and safety, it will be used only with appropriate safeguards to protect every individual's dignity and rights.

THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008
STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 208 S.D. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING, ACKNOWLEDGING, AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THEIR GREAT SACRIFICES AND HARDSHIPS AS A RESULT OF THEIR FORCED ISOLATION, WHICH AT THE TIME WAS BELIEVED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, AND APOLOGIZING TO THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR ANY HARSH RESTRICTIONS THAT CAUSED THEM UNDUE PAIN AS THE RESULT OF FORMER GOVERNMENT POLICIES SURROUNDING LEPROSY.

WHEREAS, from 1866 to 1969, an estimated 8,000 citizens of Hawai'i were forced to leave their families and to be isolated, most often on the Kalaupapa peninsula, because of society's fear of leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease); and

WHEREAS, these individuals were mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters who were separated at all ages, from very young to very old; and

WHEREAS, for many of these residents, the separation was permanent, yet, because they felt they were protecting the general public from a disease that was not curable until the 1940s, most people diagnosed with leprosy willingly made this greatest of sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, these sacrifices were made because these heroic individuals did not want anyone else to experience this disease, which was not only physically painful, but also emotionally difficult to bear; and

WHEREAS, despite being exiled by their own government and suffering great deprivations and injustices throughout much of their lives, the people of Kalaupapa have been remarkably resilient and have responded to their situations with kindness, generosity, and forgiveness rather than anger, bitterness, and despair; and

WHEREAS, the families of those sent to Kalaupapa also suffered unimaginable pain; and

WHEREAS, fathers and mothers were forced to take their unsuspecting children diagnosed with leprosy to a designated facility and leave them there, resulting in farewells of agony and sorrow; and

WHEREAS, those same parents would later watch from the docks as their children were loaded onto the ships destined for Kalaupapa, possibly the last time they would see one another; and

WHEREAS, children born to the people of Kalaupapa were immediately taken away at birth and grew up with other relatives or in orphanages, and, if they were fortunate, would eventually get to know their parents, but not until they were nearly adults or older; and

WHEREAS, relationships between parents and children could be difficult to establish and maintain because of the forced separation; and

WHEREAS, the Kalaupapa residents and their families have mostly accepted their circumstances throughout the years and put their lives back together as best they could; and

WHEREAS, the government has maintained Kalaupapa for the last remaining residents as long as they choose to remain there, and provides for their medical, food, and housing needs; and

WHEREAS, there has never been an official acknowledgement to the people of Kalaupapa for all that they did and the exemplary manner in how they have lived their lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature recognizes, acknowledges, and expresses gratitude to the people of Kalaupapa and their families for their sacrifices, for thinking more of the public than of themselves, for giving up freedoms and opportunities the rest of society takes for granted, for rebuilding their lives with pride and dignity, for

overcoming prejudice and discrimination, and for consistently reaching out to others in need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while with the adoption of this measure, the Legislature does not confer any legal cause of action or any legal rights, remedies, relief, restitution, or reparations on any person, it nonetheless apologizes for the past actions against, and treatment of, past and current residents of Kalaupapa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this overdue action be issued with the utmost respect and admiration for those remaining Kalaupapa residents, the descendents of those who have died and family members who all have endured separation from loved ones and the anguish that came with it, with the hope that if any quarantine or isolation is necessary in the future to protect public health and safety, it will be used only with appropriate safeguards to protect every individual's dignity and rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to all the residents of Kalaupapa, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the Governor, the Director of Health, and the Superintendent of Kalaupapa National Historical Park.

MEMORIAL LOCATION AT THE BALDWIN BOYS HOME

Everyone had agreed the site of the former Old Baldwin Boys Home is the most suitable sit for the Kalaupapa Memorial long ago. Recently, however, it is our understanding that the new Superintendent expressed that the Baldwin Boys Home site might not be appropriate for the Memorial and it may have to be moved to another location if NPS is going to give its approval of a site where the Memorial is to be located.

We were surprised when we heard of this possible requirement to change the location of the Memorial. Why because NPS had represented on several occasions reasons why THEY chose the Baldwin Boys Home as the site for the Memorial. Some of NPS's recommendations are set forth below.

In the Environmental Assessment NPS prepared and released in 2010 NPS highlighted the following as a reason for the Baldwin Boys Home being selected as the location for the Memorial:

> ***"The Old Baldwin Boys' Home was chosen (by NPS), in part, because, in accordance with NPS guidelines for the establishment of memorials, it is important that the commemorative work be located in surroundings that are relevant to the subject of the work. At least 2,000 of the 8,000 people who died at Kalaupapa lie in unmarked graves in a field directly across from the former Old Baldwin Home site***

Finding of No Significant Impact Statement associated with the aforementioned NPS Environmental Assessment, which NPS issued in August 2011, the following was highlighted as a reason for locating the Memorial at the Baldwin Boys Home.

> ***"Approximately 30 written responses or oral comments were received. Scoping comments were narrowly focused on fulfilling the desires of the remaining Hansen's disease patients and locating the within the former Baldwin Boys Home site. Throughout this scoping process, patients and public expressed their desire to have the Memorial at the former Baldwin Boys Home."***

Below are some other key information supporting the Kalaupapa Memorial's location at the former Baldwin Boys Home site.

Excerpt from the attached Kalaupapa Memorial Act signed into law by President Barrack Obama on March 30, 2009.

The Secretary of Interior shall 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 at ***à situable location*** *or locations approved by the Secretary at Kalawao or Kalaupapa .... **within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park**...to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to*

Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969.

The current location of the Kalaupapa Memorial is in the Kalawao ahupua'a of the Makanalua Peninsula (Kalaupapa) on the site of the former Old Baldwin Boys Home near two historic churches Siloama Protestant Church and St. Philomena Catholic Church. The owners of both historic church's support the location of the Memorial and its view plains.

QUESTION: Is the Old Baldwin Home site in Kalawao "a suitable location" to establish the Memorial on as referenced in the above excerpt from Kalaupapa Memorial Act:

> **YES** according to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit, Native Hawaiian organization conceived by resident patients of Kalaupapa and consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and their family members and friends. The organization was formed through an initiative launched by patient community so as their numbers grew smaller their voices would continue to be heard and the legacy they envisioned for Kalaupapa would be realized.
>
> **YES** according to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the owner of the Old Baldwin Home site which is state land. DLNR has approved the location of the Memorial as long as its current design/location remains generally consistent with the design/location shown below, which was included in the final Environmental Assessment (EA) unanimously approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The final design/location is consistent with the EA approved by the Land Board.
>
> **YES** according to the State Historic Preservation Division of DLNR that responded to a letter from NPS with the following: " Your correspondence indicates that guidelines for the design and location of the Memorial have been agreed-upon between the 'Ohana and the NPS and include the following principals; 1. Be designed and sited to avoid disturbance of natural and cultural resources and values; 2. Be located in surroundings relevant to its subject; 3. Be constructed of materials suitable to and compatible with the local environment; 4. Not encroach on any other pre-existing work or be esthetically intrusive; 5. Not interfere significantly with open space and existing public use; 6. Not divert attention from the park's primary interpretive theme; and 7. Not be affixed to the historic fabric of a structure.
>
> **We at SHPD believe that if the agreed-upon guidelines (1through 7 above) are followed, there will be no adverse effect to the KNHP or to individual historic properties within the district.**
>
> **YES** according the State Land Use Commission. The Commission issued a Declaration Ruling to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa that the Kalaupapa Memorial is by law a permitted use on the Old Baldwin Home site because its establishment is considered **"an improvement of the site of historic interest to the State."**

YES according to the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ (UCC), owner of historic Siloama Church that neighbors the site of the Kalaupapa Memorial. In letters from Hawaii Conference Minister Charles Buck, he writes, *" Support for such a memorial is broad-based,* ***but most importantly the idea was conceived by and receives overwhelming support from the patients themselves.*** *UCC believes that the addition of the memorial to the general area could enhance the visitors 'experience to Kalawao, as well as offer visual interest and a meditative environment for the former Old Baldwin Home site.* ***In fact, it would be especially meaningful for the memorial to be within visual range of and in near proximity to the field of unmarked graves."***

YES according to the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, owner of historic St. Philomena Church which neighbors the Memorial site.

In a letter to responding to a letter received from National Park Service, The Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop for the Diocese of Honolulu, who had family sent to Kalaupapa writes—*"Thank you for your letter requesting my input on the proposed Memorial.* ***I would like to affirm the site of the Old Baldwin Homes as the ideal site for the Memorial.*** *I am not sure what "adverse effects" the Memorial would have on the area, but in my opinion it would have very positive effects on the site of the old Baldwin Boys Home—two you (NPS) mentioned opportunities for education and interpretation as well as continued invasive vegetation management.*

The area of Kalawao is a sacred place, and visitors I have taken there always are in awe of its "mana" or spiritual nature. Siloama and St. Philomena churches, the cemetery with Father Damien's original grave and Joseph Dutton's grave all contribute to the sacredness of the area. ***Adding the Memorial would enhance the feeling of sacred space,*** *since it would call to mind all the people who worshipped at those two sites and others for whom they prayed daily.* ***The Memorial would serve as a kind of communal "headstone" so that all buried on the Peninsula, whether in marked or unmarked graves, could be remembered."***

Excerpts from December 3, 2020 meeting with State Parks Division (SPD), which is serving as staff to the State Board of Land and Natural Resources for the Kalaupapa Memorial project, National Park Service (NPS) and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa (Ka 'Ohana), which has been authorized by Congress to establish the Kalaupapa Memorial, and G70 International, a prominent architectural and engineering firm working with Ka 'Ohana on the Memorial project.

Statements from Curt Cottrell, Administrator for SPD, Erika Stein Espaniola, NPS Superintendent at Kalaupapa, and Jason Umemoto, Chairman of Ka 'Ohana's Memorial Committee, and Kawika McKeague, G70 Principal.

No Outstanding Issues on lease per State Parks Division Administrator Curt Cottrell, who suggests trying to schedule a meeting before the Land Board on January 8 or January 22. Everyone agrees to aim for Janaury 22 of 2021 to appear back before the Land Board

Mr. Cottrell (State Parks)	In terms of the footprints, I think that is the main element, I guess, that needs to be resolved, prior to bringing that document to the board. From an NPS standpoint, Erika, does that sound about right?
Ms. Espaniola (NPS)	Yes.
Mr. Cottrell (State Parks):	Okay. So, if that footprint is the only element, then since you now have the lease, if we can resolve that portion of the lease, then the lease should be about ready to take to the Land Board, depending on how we resolve the footprint issue. So, then, it just comes down to – if I can paraphrase it – are the walls in, or out? Is that really where we're at with this, in terms of footprint?
Mr. Umemoto (Ka 'Ohana):	The lease describes inside of the walls. The walls are excluded, so, that was a revision that was made, based on earlier comments. So, I think that was already done.
Mr. Cottrell (State Parks):	So, that's where this – today, hopefully, we can reach some kind of reconciliation or understanding as to, if that lease document that you guys have – if it works for everybody as is, then we can prepare the Land Board submittal.
Ms. Espaniola (NPS):	**So, I think that our review will be really quick, because actually we've seen it, and there's nothing problematic to us at first glance, so.**
Mr. Cottrell (State Parks):	So, I think – just to streamline, Erika – all the Chair would need is just that verification that we go to the Land Board and you guys wouldn't be contesting any elements of it; that you would be in support, and we – that's all we really – the agency-to-agency part is pretty much strictly to ensure that that part of how we do the process was smooth.
Ms. Espanola (NPS):	Okay.
Mr. McKeague (G70):	So, can we all agree, then, that we aim for the 22nd of January, is that reasonable
Mr. Cottrell (State Parks):	Yes.
Ms. Espaniola (NPS)	Yes
Mr. McKeague (G70):	Jason, is that okay with you guys?
Mr. Umemoto (Ka 'Ohana):	That's fine with me, and I appreciate all this coordination. That's great.
Mr. McKeague (G70):	That's awesome, guys. Mahalo pia for that.

KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL DESIGN

MEMORIAL VIEW PLAIN

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

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

"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 'Ōhana's efforts in establishing Kalaupapa's important historic Memorial is an important step toward recognizing and healing the tragic harms of the past;

– Continued –

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiian ʻohana had members exiled to Kalaupapa. Of the estimated 8,000 Hawaiʻi 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 ʻohana;

WHEREAS, Bernard K. Punikaiʻa, 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 ʻOhana 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 ʻOhana has received six historic preservation awards from Historic Hawaiʻi Foundation for its preservation work at Kalaupapa;

WHEREAS, at a meeting on October 16, 2015, the State Land Use Commision 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 suports and honors Ka ʻOhana 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 ʻohana 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 ʻOhana 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 ʻāina of Kalaupapa National Historical Park and Kalawao County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the unwaivering commitment committment, mālama and ʻike of Ka ʻOhana 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 ʻOhana O Kalaupapa has touched the lives of many and provided a path toward healing for thepeople of Kalaupapa, throughout the lāhui, in the State of Hawaiʻi and beyond ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes Ka ʻOhana 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,

– Continued –

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Ka ʻOhana O Kalaupapa; United States Secretary of the Interior; Director of National Park Services; Hawaiʻi's U.S. Congressoinal Delegation; Chairperson of the State of Hawaiʻi Board of Land and Natural Resources; Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi; President of the Senate, State of Hawaiʻi; Speaker of the House, State of Hawaiʻi; 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 Molokaʻi; State Representative for the Island of Molokaʻi; Chair of the Maui County Council, and all County Mayors.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of August 2022, island of Oʻahu, State of Hawaiʻi, 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

Leinaʻala Ahu Isa, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Trustee, At-large

Dan Ahuna

Dan Ahuna
Trustee, Kauaʻi and Niʻihau

Brendon Kaleiʻāina Lee
Trustee, At-large

Kaleihikina Akaka

Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee, Oʻahu

Mililani B. Trask

Mililani B. Trask
Trustee, Hawaiʻi

Keliʻi Akina, Ph.D.
Trustee, At-large

John D. Waiheʻe IV
Trustee, At-large

Luana Alapa
Trustee, Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi

Date: _____

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:

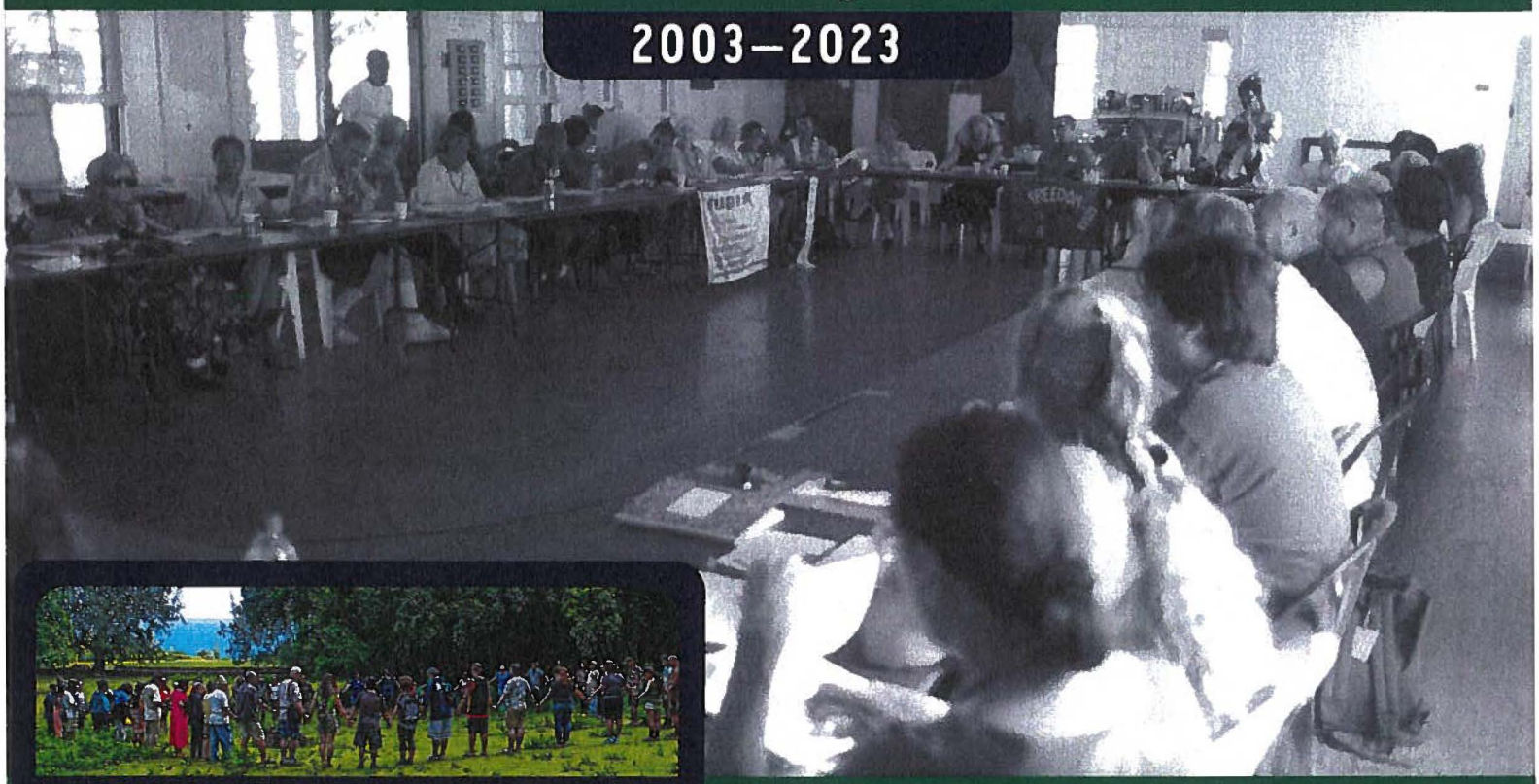
- The Kalaupapa National Historic Landmark designation: Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement – Historic Hawaii Foundation
- "Saving the Neighborhood" Booklet for grassroots campaigns

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano 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

Our masthead was designed by Kalaupapa artist Henry Nalaielua.

Newsletter editor: Valerie Monson

Design: Yellowbird Graphic Design

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
P.O. Box 1111
Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742
email: info.kalaupapa@gmail.com
www.kalaupapaohana.org

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 Kalauapapa 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.

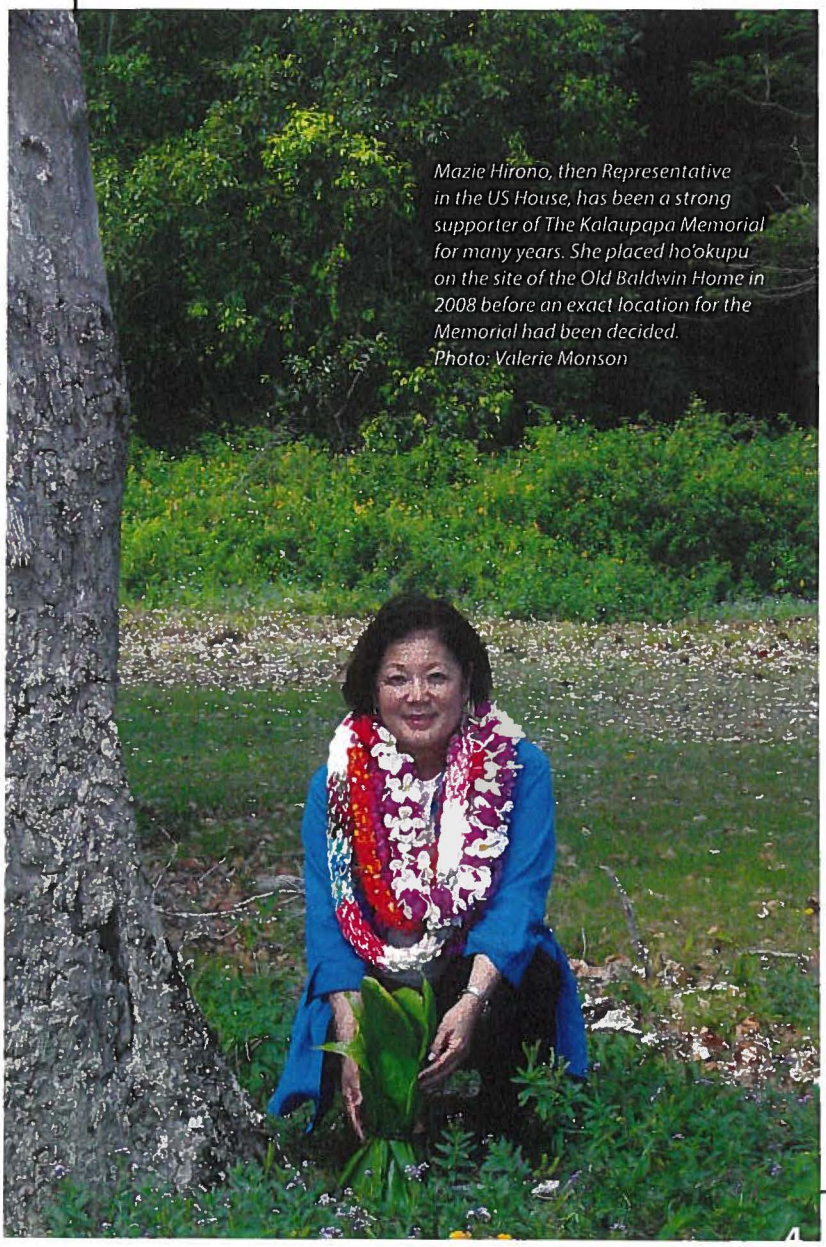
At the organizational meeting, the Kalaupapa residents asked that their longtime dream of building a Memorial at Kalaupapa be a priority of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Because the National Park Service did not support the Memorial, Ka 'Ohana sought the help of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation — all of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

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.

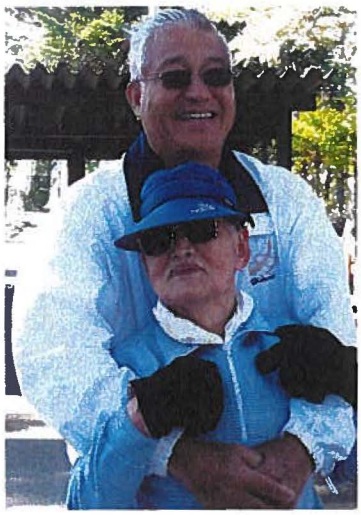
Editorials of support appeared in the local press — and even earned an endorsement from The Sunday New York Times, showing how the Kalaupapa Memorial resonates with people far from our shores.


Group leads fight for Kalaupapa memorial

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.*



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



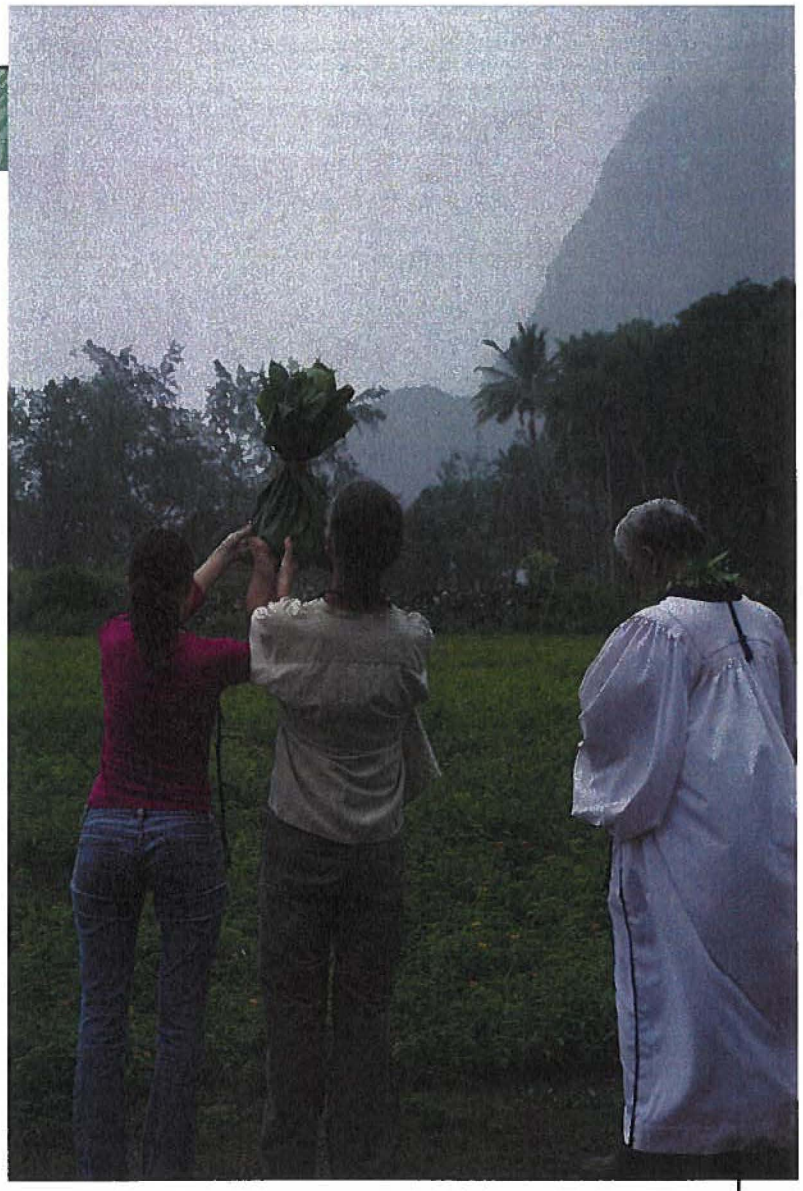
Taka Harada (in back) was part of a visit to Japan by leaders of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa where they met residents there who had been isolated because of leprosy, including Sanshiro Fujita. Photo: Valerie Monson

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

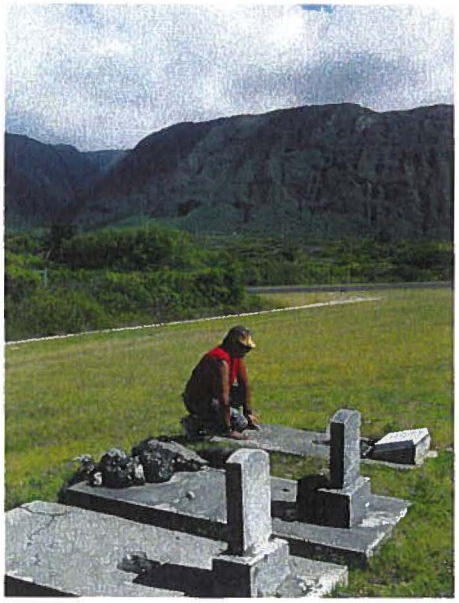


Napua and Timmy Leong, both descendants of Kalaupapa, present ho'okupu during a Remembrance Ceremony at Kalawao during the 2008 annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. The Rev. David Kaupu offered the blessing. Photo: Wayne Levin

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

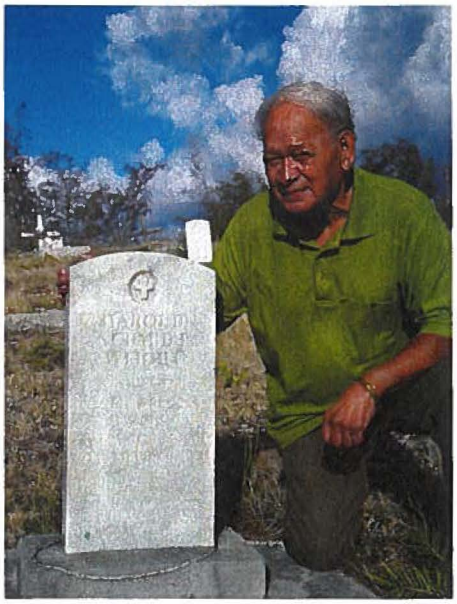
Following the Remembrance Ceremony (top photo), Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa celebrated its Fifth Anniversary with a luau for the entire Kalaupapa community. The singer Makana provided entertainment. Photo: Wayne Levin

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

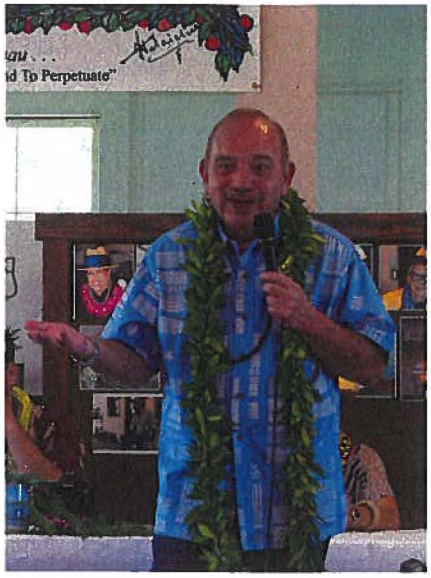
Wesley Hori stands in front of the iconic Cross at the Kalaupapa crater that was conceived by his grandfather, Henry Shinichi Hori. Photo: Wayne Levin



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



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

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.

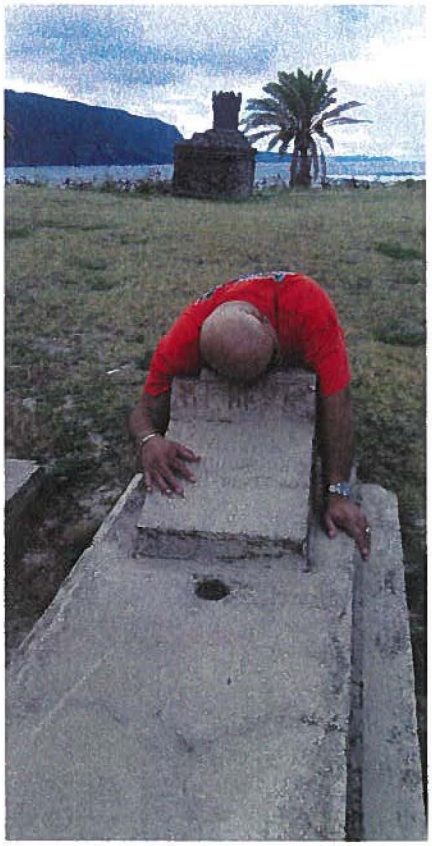
After President Barack Obama signed the Kalaupapa Memorial Act into law in 2009, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa focused on carrying the stories of the people back to the lands of their birth. Ka 'Ohana developed two traveling exhibits: a historical exhibit based on the strong relationship between the ali'i and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

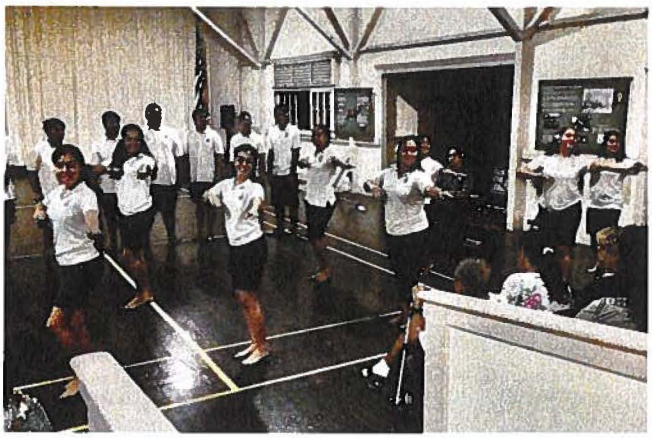
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa President Boogie Kahilihiwa (top) surrounded by 5th grade students of Kamehameha Schools who participated in a play about Kalaupapa. Photo: Mara Bacon Chang



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

2014–2018

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: Tennye 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 Ou

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 Damiaan Museum

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 Damiaan 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

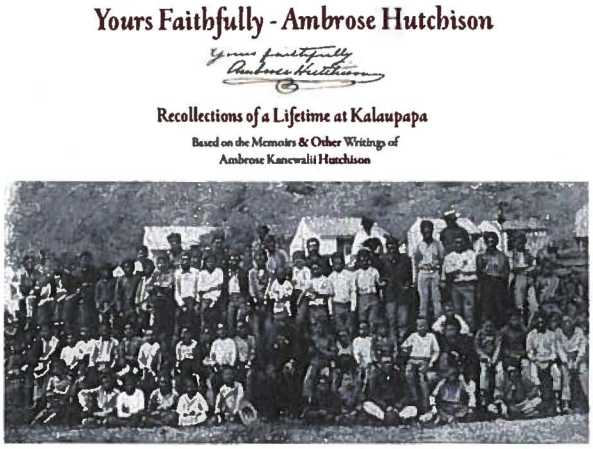
In 2021, the Hawai'i State Legislature unanimously adopted a proposal submitted by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to designate every January as Kalaupapa Month across the islands. Governor David Ige signed the bill into law. Photo: Greg Lau

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.



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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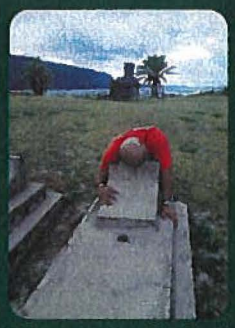
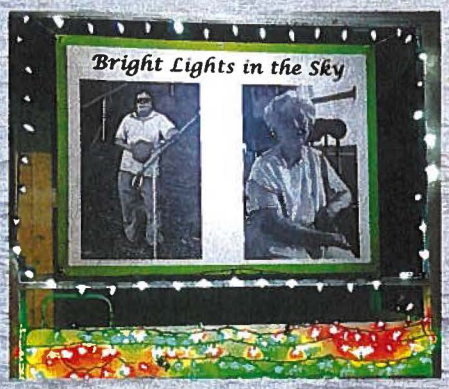


Forever Cherishing our Kalaupapa Kupuna

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 PayPal

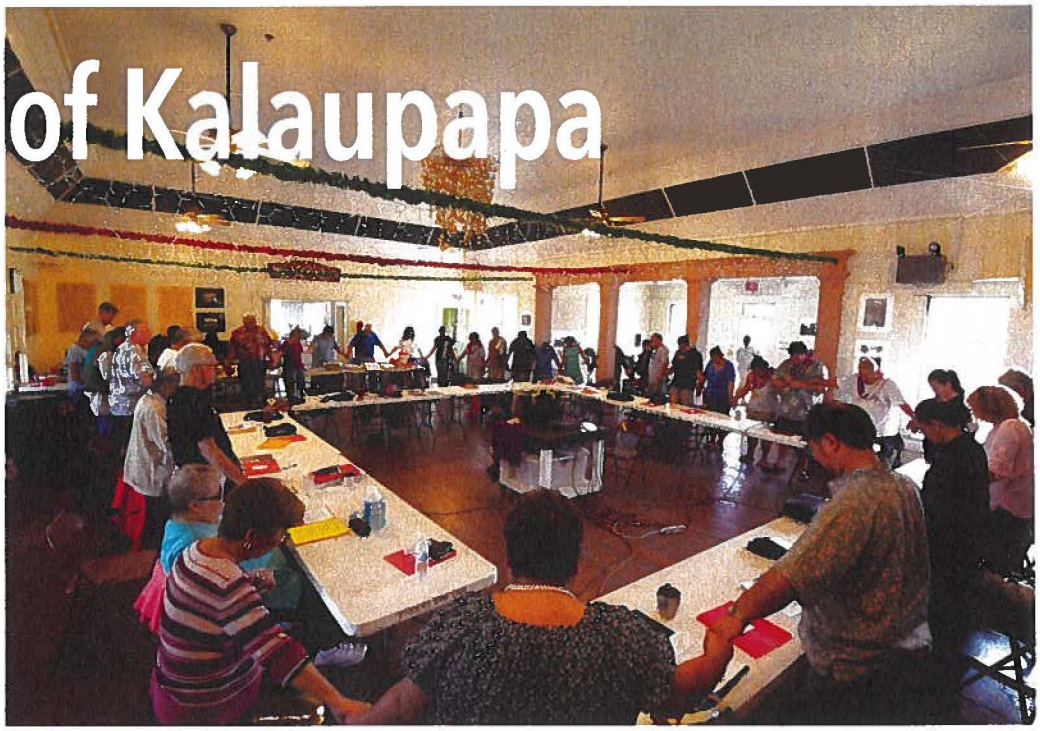
Mahalo to GOG Hawaii Foundation for their generous support with the production costs of this newsletter.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

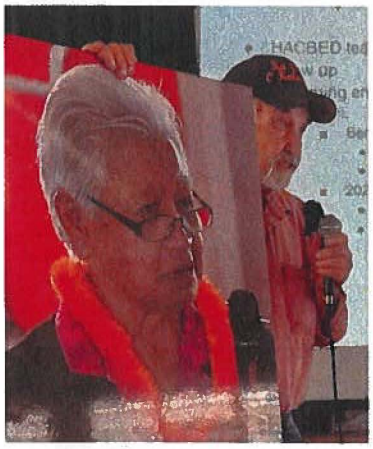
"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau. . .
. . . To Honor and To Perpetuate"

The Future of Kalaupapa

Will the Voices of the People Finally Be Heard?



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



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

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

A Message from Our President

In Memoriam

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

Kuulei Bell
President, 2004-2009

Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa
President, 2009-2021

Pauline Chow
Vice President, 2008-2024

Our masthead was designed by Kalaupapa artist Henry Nalaielua.

Newsletter editor: Valerie Monson

Design: Yellowbird Graphic Design

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
P.O. Box 1111
Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742
email: info.kalaupapa@gmail.com
www.kalaupapaohana.org

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

Pauline Chow: Wisdom and Aloha

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.

Honoring a Queen Who

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 dignataries 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 dimenson 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

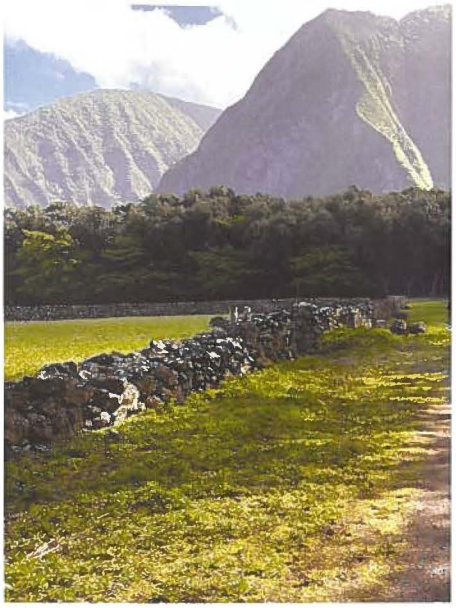
To learn more:

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

Back at K

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 Kalaupap remembrance day to honor the first 12 people sent events was a walk to Kalawao where we thought ot Photo: Valerie Monson

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

Pauline Chow's Birthday Party Photo: Charmaine Woodward

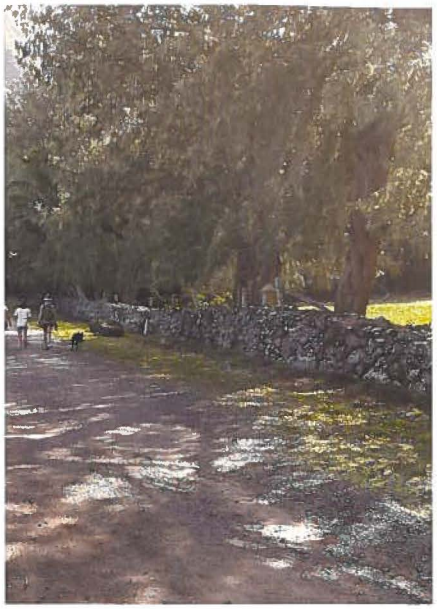
From right: Kalaupapa resident John Arruda, Ka 'Ohana Board Member DeGray Vanderbilt, St. Louis School Principal Timothy Los Banos and St. Louis alumni Ryan Hurley at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

In 2024, Ka 'Ohana ra after years of COVID re

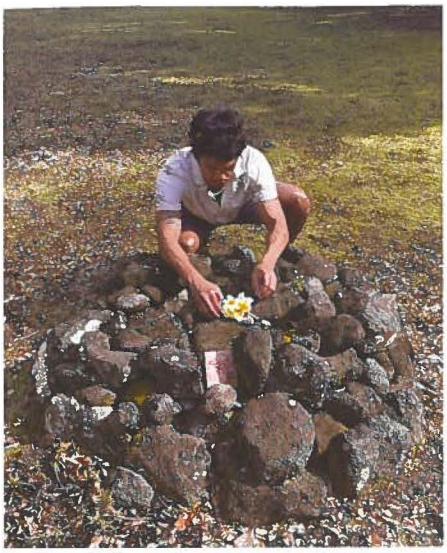
One of the hardships that resulted from the COVID-19 restrictions, was the strict limitations on visitors at Kalaupapa. Unable to conduct our face-to-face programs with the Kalaupapa community or help descendants visit the land of their ancestors, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa had to retool our outreach to virtual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

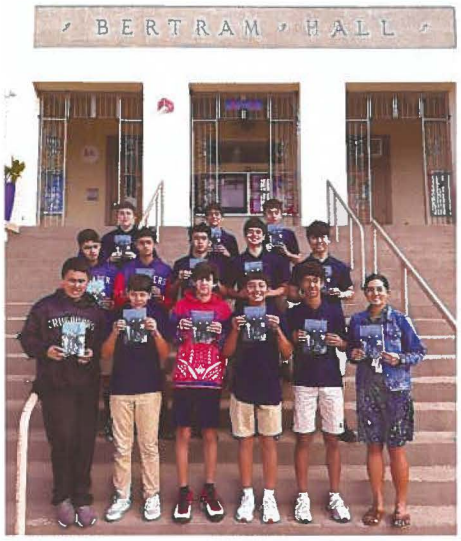
But challenges remain. Ground transportation for bigger groups is



'h at Kalaupapa on January 6 with a upapa on that day in 1866. Included with the ıely journey of those first 12 individuals.



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 Kaluaikoolau as Told by His Wife Piilani." *Photo: Courtesy St. Louis School*

ıed up activities 'ictions

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.

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 Mōkapu and 'Okāla. Photo: Charmaine Woodward.

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

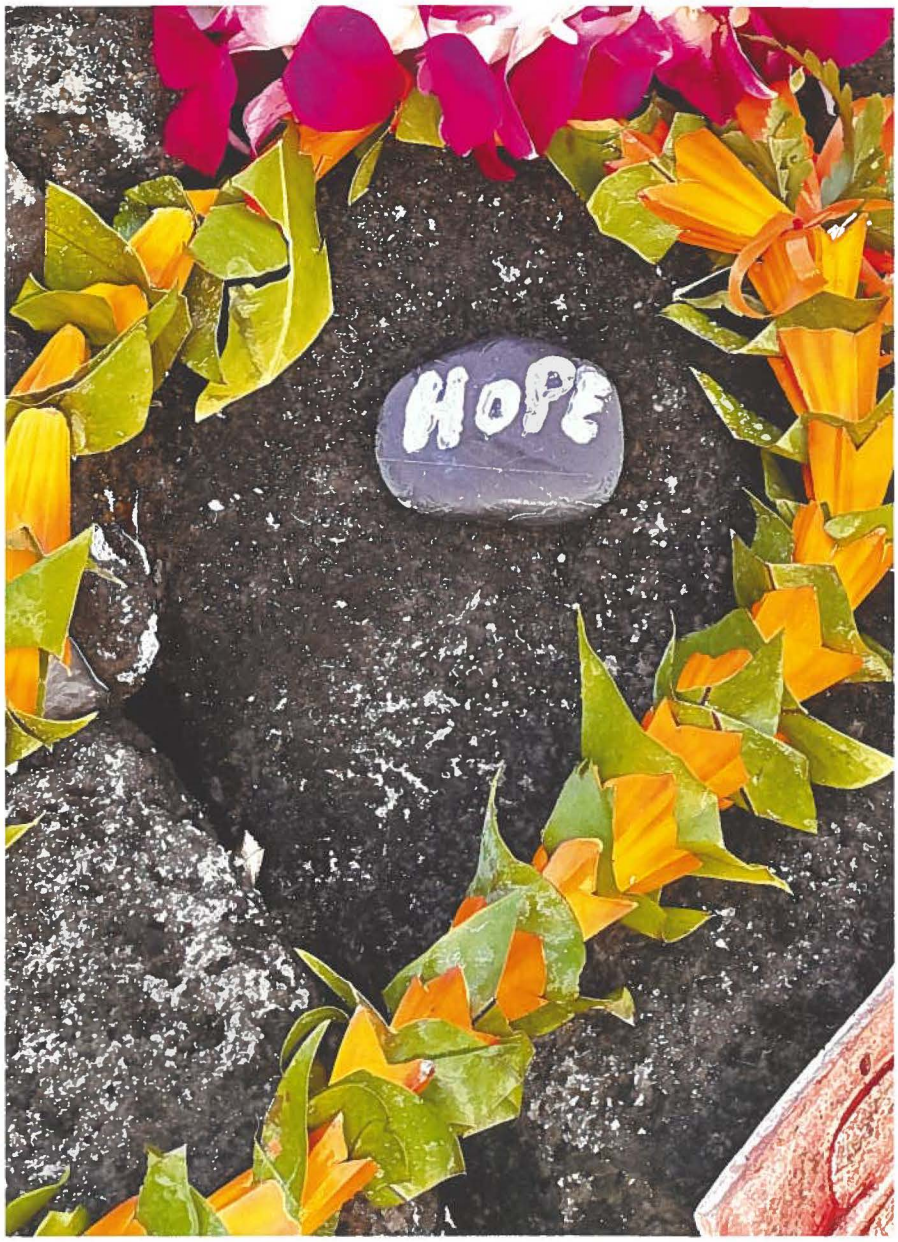
We Must Persevere

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

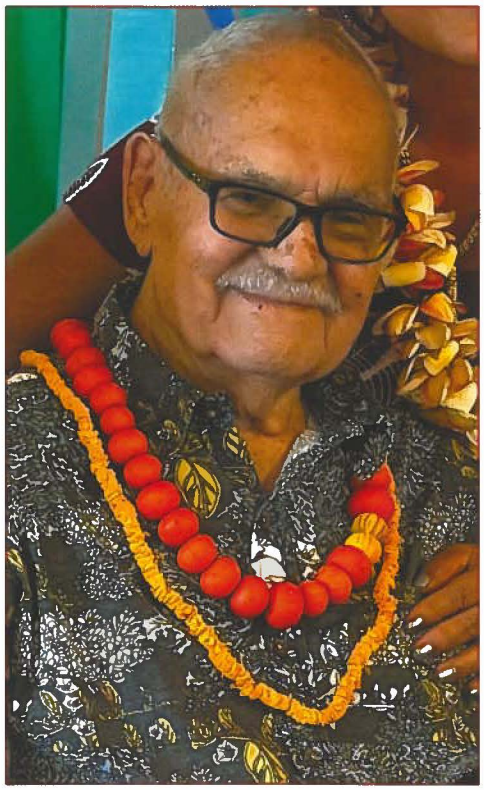
Kalaupapa resident John Arruda proved, yet again, that he is one-of-a-kind: On April 12, 2024, surrounded by family, friends and a congratulatory video from the Governor, John celebrated his 100th birthday.

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 Arruda at his birthday party. Photo: Debbie Piper

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. 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.

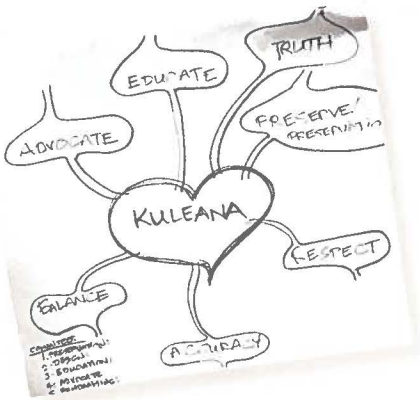
Leaders of Ka 'Ohana and descendants of Kalaupapa have not been consulted about the future of Kalaupapa-requests to join the government leaders on the transition team have been denied. The upper Molokai community which has a longstanding interest in what happens at Kalaupapa has not been included — neither 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 Kauahikaua, 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

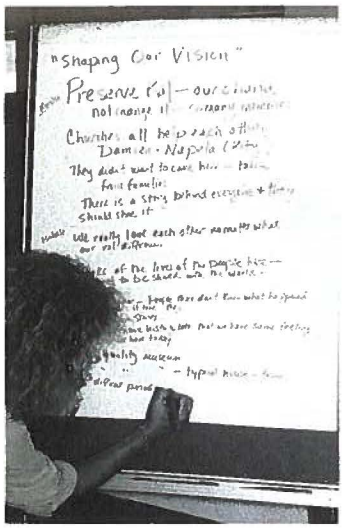
elected Molokai leaders announced they would form a Working Group that will include other voices to discuss the future of Kalaupapa — finally giving many knowledgable members of the community a chance to weigh in. Government officials will be welcome to join.

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:

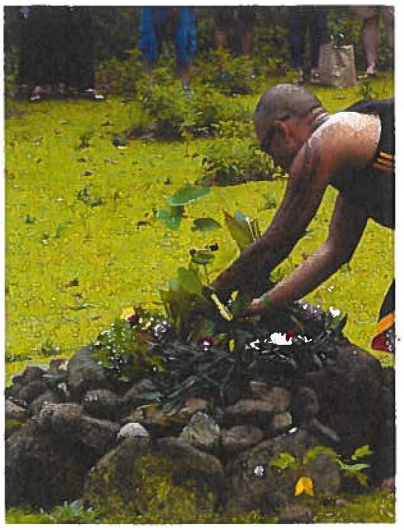
- Although Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980, what happens when the State Department of Health leaves following the death of the last resident (patient)? Will the federal government be in full control of Kalaupapa with possibly no accountability to anyone else?
- Will a local, 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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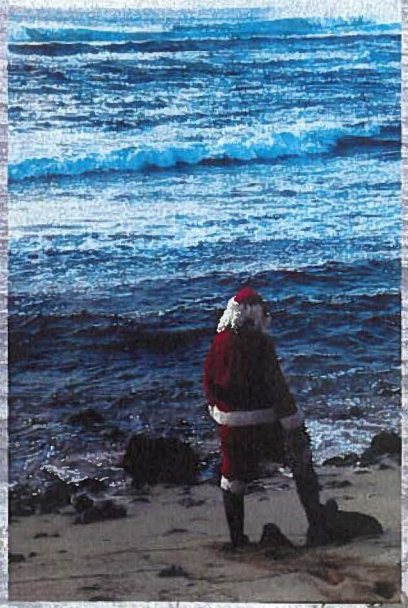
Aloha 'oe Pauline Chow

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.

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Or donate by visiting our 'Ohana website
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Mahalo to GOG Hawaii Foundation for their generous support with the production costs of this newsletter.

2025

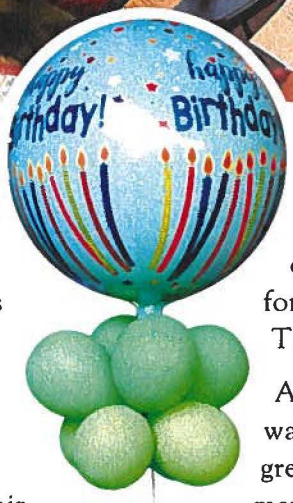
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

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

Bernard Ka'owakaokalani Punikai'a:

Our Bright Light in the Sky

PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN



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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 ▶

IN MEMORIAM

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

Kuulei Bell
President, 2004-2009

Clarence "Boogie" Kahilihiwa
President, 2009-2021

Pauline Ahulau Chow
Vice President, 2009-2024

Gloria Lutu Marks
Director, 2004-2025

Makia Malo
Director, 2004-2012

Nellie McCarthy
Director, 2006-2007

Masthead Design:
Henry Nalaielua (Kalaupapa artist)

Newsletter editor:
Valerie Monson

Newsletter Design:
Brock Munson Graphic Design

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
P.O. Box 1111
Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742
email: info.kalaupapaohana.org
www.kalaupapaohana.org

A Message from Our President

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'owakaokalani Punikai'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'uwai... 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.

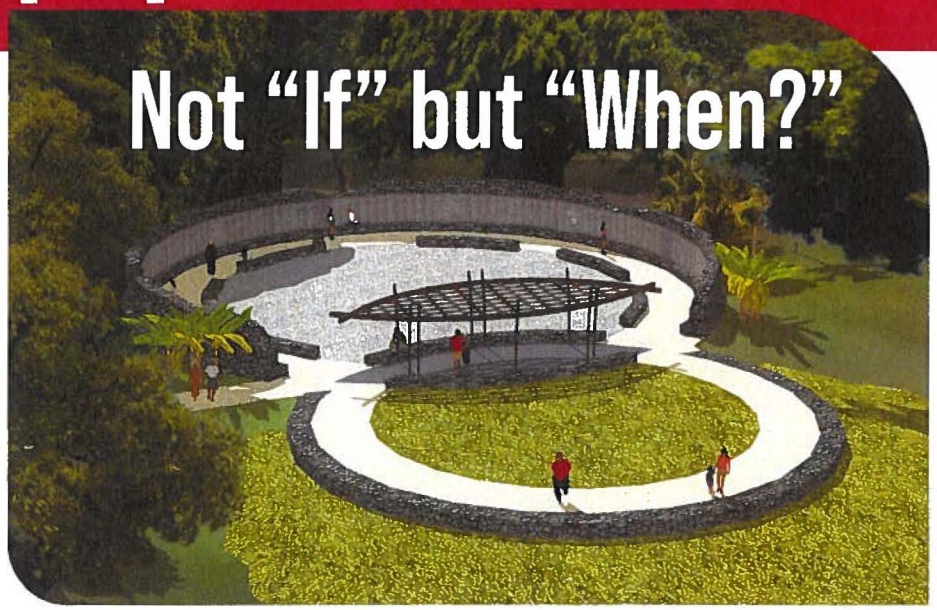
The call of those 8,000 stars is a direct summons to action now.
Know your stories. Share your stories. Join us.

Aloha nō,

Charmaine Woodward, *President*

Kalaupapa Memorial

Not "If" but "When?"



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.

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

"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.

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 isssuance 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...

COURTESY KALAUPAPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

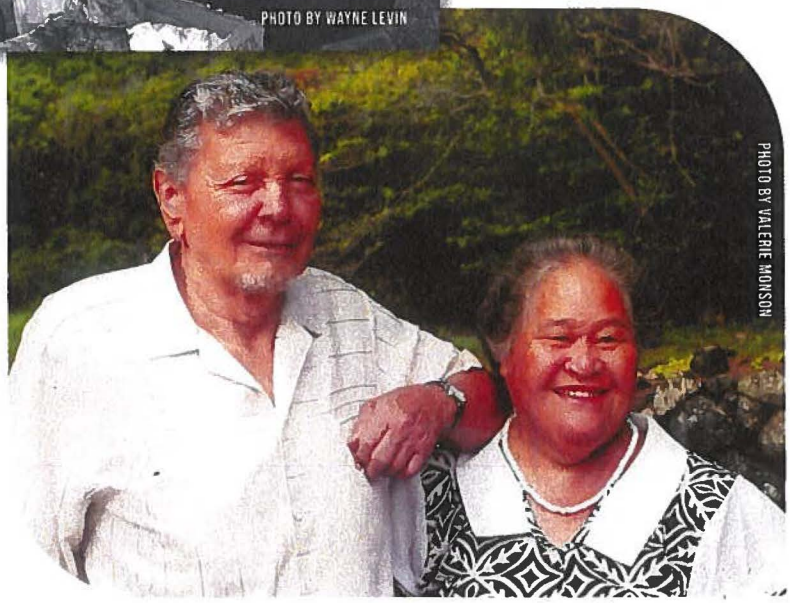


PHOTO BY VALERIE MONSON

Aloha 'Oe, Danny Hashimoto

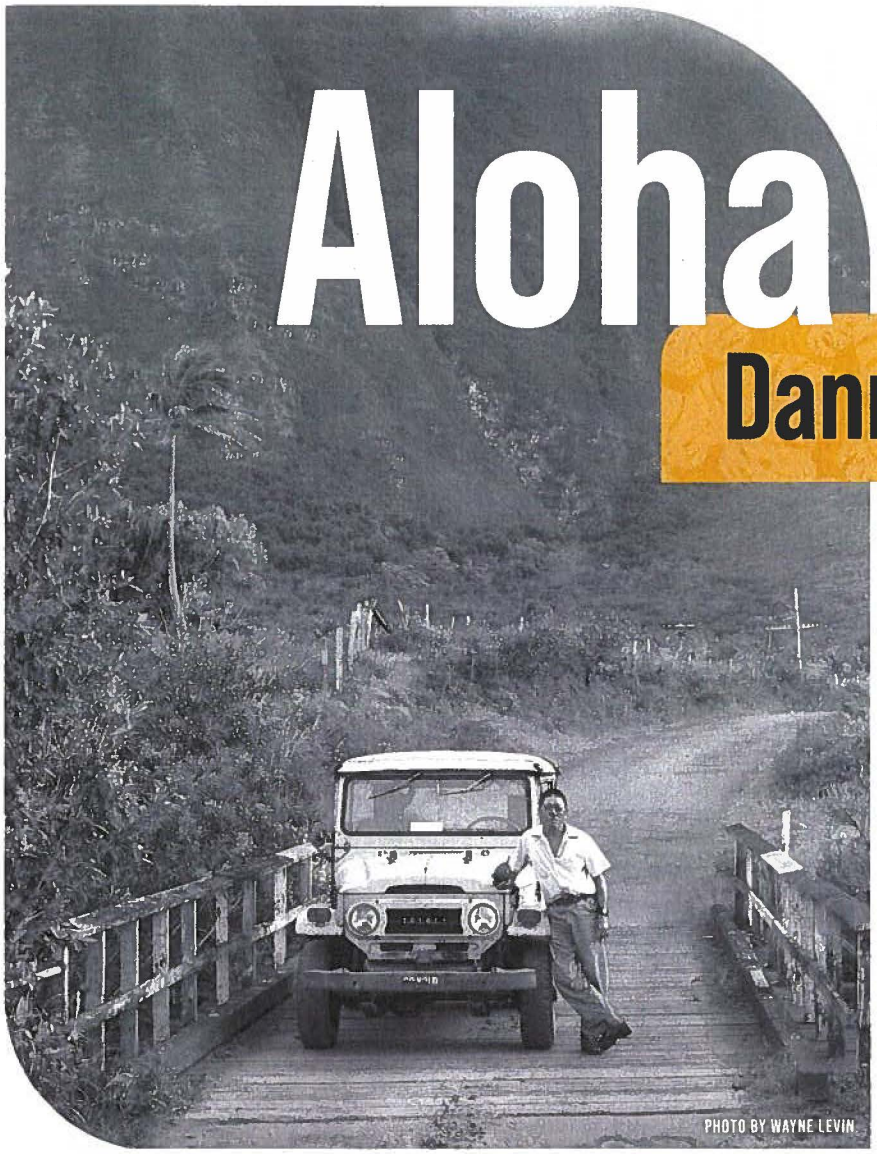


PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN

Danny Hashimoto arrived at Kalaupapa in the spring of 1942, a 12-year-old boy, feeling very much alone. Soon after, Danny became so sick from the effects of leprosy that he was admitted to the Kalaupapa Hospital.

To pass the time, he began reading the comic books his mother had bought for him.

Those comic books would become Danny's first library—and a launching pad to all things that led to higher learning: newspapers, sophisticated magazines, books, classical music, stamp collecting.

When Danny died at Kalaupapa in 2025, just two months shy of his 96th birthday, he was, in his own way, a professor of just about anything, and his memory of Kalaupapa history remained sharp nearly his entire life. He also had another distinction: Danny became the person to live the longest at Kalaupapa. He was there for more than 83 years. ■

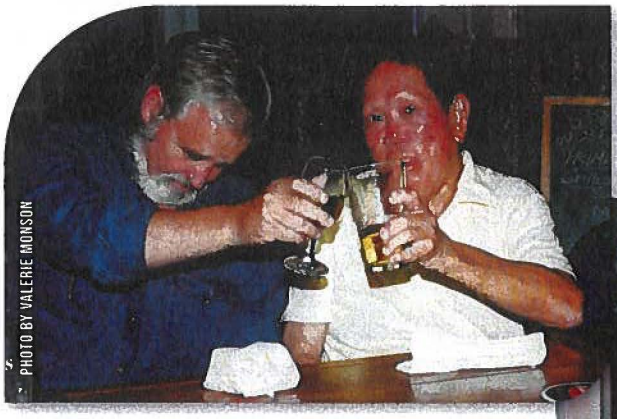


PHOTO BY VALERIE MONSON

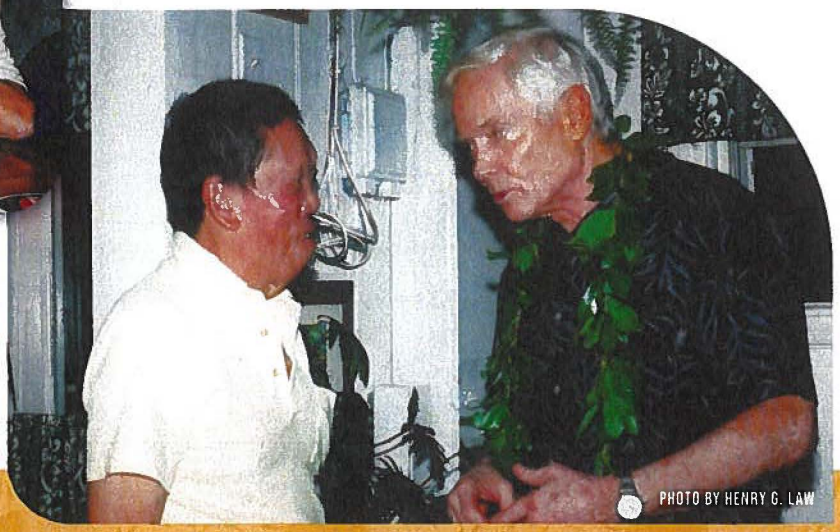


PHOTO BY HENRY G. LAW

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.

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 Kalaupapa, 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 Punahou 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

> *"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**

▶ 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." ■

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 Aiport: (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.

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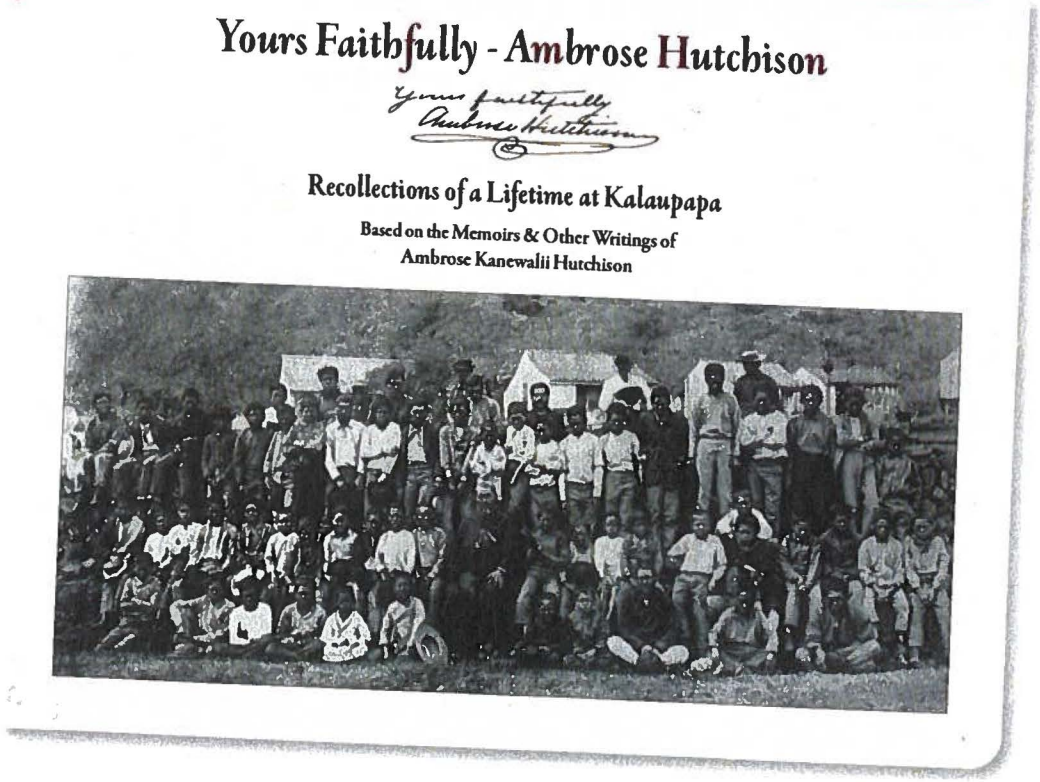

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PHOTO BY WAYNE LEVIN

"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.

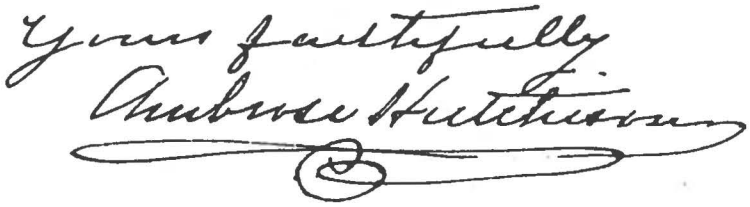
"Let's remember and celebrate these mostly unknown and unheralded heroes and the sacrifices they made. The greatest honor we can give them is to relay their histories authentically and with dignity.

"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."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORIC HAWAI'I FOUNDATION

"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, recieve a certificate of excellence for the book presented by Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

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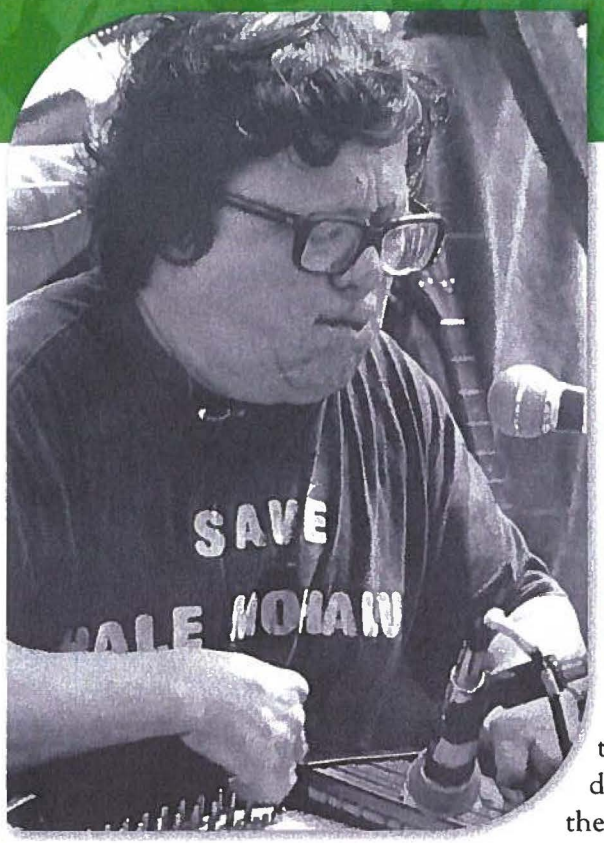

"I started weeping the second I came through the door," said former Governor Neil Abercrombie, describing Punikai'a as his "hero."

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

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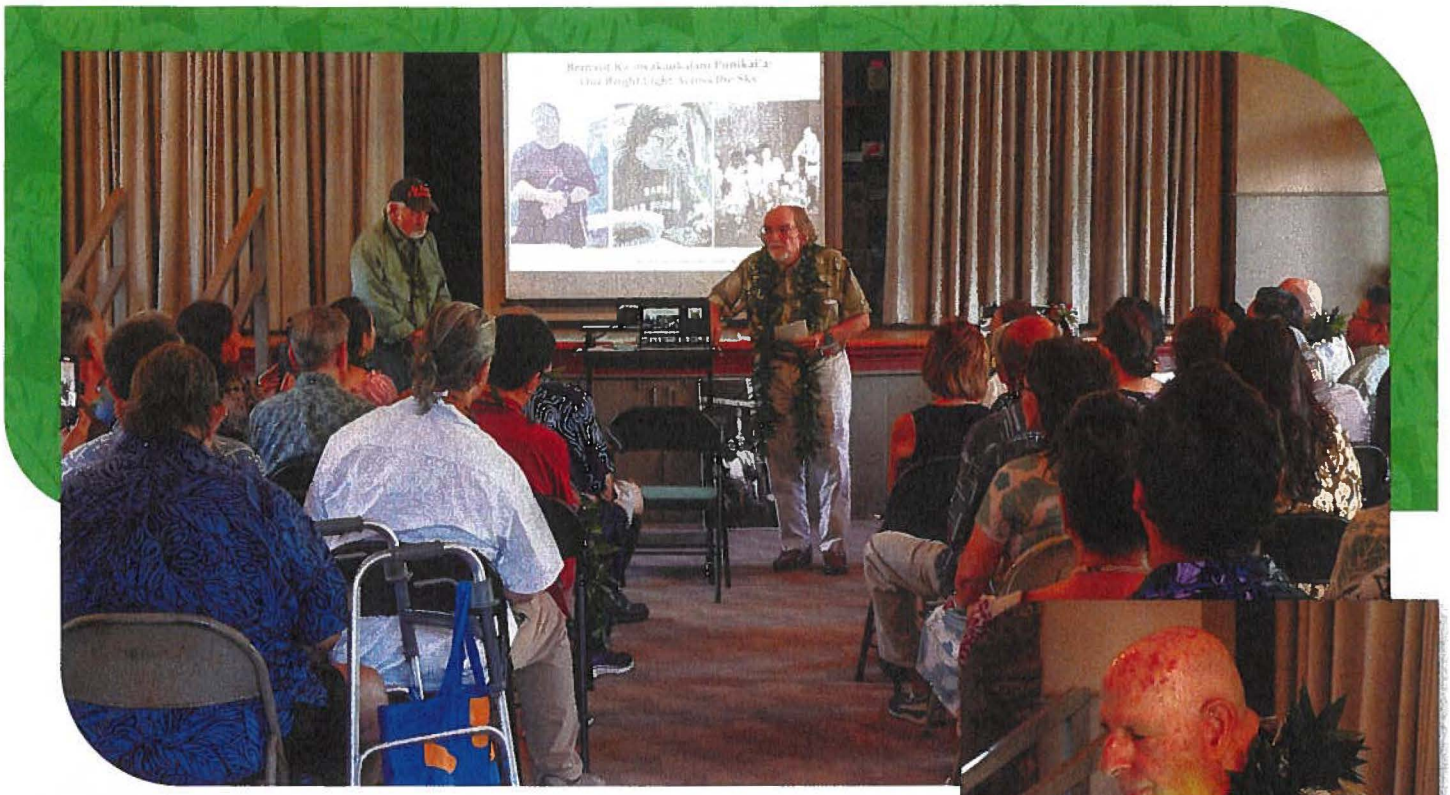

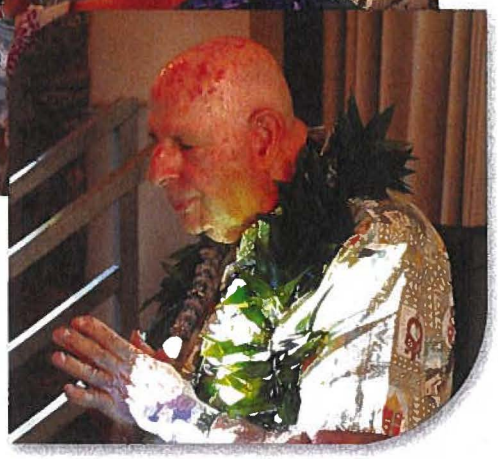

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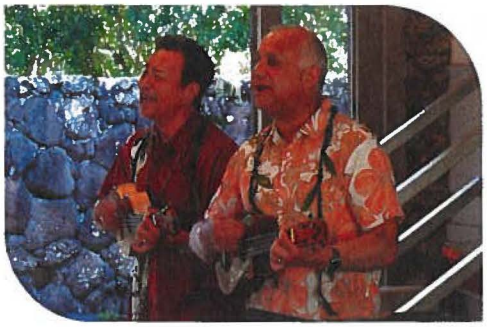
and so much interest from other descendants who want to become advocates and get involved in future discussions."

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

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