

KAA Committee

From: Sarah N. Sexton
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 3:05 PM
To: KAA Committee

From: Holman, Nancy L
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 1:53 PM
To: Sarah N. Sexton
Cc: Keani N. Rawlins, Keomailani H. Hirata , Mahealani P. Bright-Wilhelm
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Thurs, Jan 29th, 2026 attendance for Kōmike Aloha 'Āina meeting

Good afternoon Sarah,

Thank you for your patience regarding my response. And thank you to Councilmember Rawlins for this opportunity to provide additional context about Kalaupapa National Historical Park in relation to the transfer of county jurisdiction. I plan to attend in person to answer questions about NPS jurisdiction and operations in the context of the topic of county jurisdiction, which does not include public access. I will not have a presentation nor does the NPS have any remarks about the potential transfer as it is a State decision.

I appreciate Councilmember Rawlins continued work to understand the complex jurisdiction and management of Kalaupapa. If the Committee plans to discuss public access of Kalaupapa, I recommend that all parties associated with this topic are present, including Department of Health, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, R. W. Meyer Ltd, Mokulele Airlines/Surf Air, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for sharing your assumptions in the December 22nd correspondence. Please find my response below:

1. The National Park Service, as the lessee of land from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, is and will continue to be responsible for maintaining roads, water and sewer systems, and buildings in Kalawao County.

The General Lease between the NPS and DHHL applies only to DHHL-owned lands within the park boundary. There are state owned lands and infrastructure within the county belonging to Hawaii State Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Transportation. Also, within the county there are facilities belonging to three ecclesiastical organizations and private property owned by R.W. Meyer, Ltd.

Maintenance and repair of infrastructure by the NPS is subject to the availability of funds.

The General Lease expires in 2041.

2. The County will not assume any maintenance responsibilities within Kalawao County.

This is also my understanding since the infrastructure is owned by State, Ecclesiastical and Private interests.

3. The County will continue its current Memorandum of Agreement with the National Park Service to provide police and fire support.

The NPS and Maui County do not have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for police and fire support, although attempts to negotiate one have occurred in the past. The County has a MOA with Hawaii State Department of Health.

4. Under the proposed legislation, the County will extend its authority to Kalawao County for activity within the Special Management Area.

I understand that SMA's are managed through the County they are located within. What is less clear is the overlay of SMA management on State owned properties. I recommend that the process for any SMA related permitting within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park be further articulated regardless of landowner or manager.

Please let me know if you have further questions,
Nancy



Nancy Holman (she, her, hers)
Superintendent

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