

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2020 8:50:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lopaka Hoopii       | Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Lopaka Hoopii. I have been a board director for Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa since 2016. My grandparents were residents of Kalaupapa since the early 1900's, and my dad and 6 of his siblings were born there. In addition to my grandparents, I have two uncles and aunts that are buried in Kalaupapa. My dad recently turned 91 years of age on February 3rd.

No month contains more important date throughout Kalaupapa's history than the month of January. This is the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; the month of the birthdays of Saints Damien and Marianne; the month when the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday - and other important dates.

Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa believes that Kalaupapa Month will be an annual reminder to people all over Hawaii about the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant contributions made by her people throughout the history of Hawaii. Ka 'Ohana also hopes that Kalaupapa Month will be a time when teachers will focus on the history of Kalaupapa in their classrooms and when more churches will pay tribute to the people of Kalaupapa who found strength and community through their faith in God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lopaka Hoopii

Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa Director



Senator Donovan Dela Cruz Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

SB2370-SD1: Kalaupapa Month

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m., Room 211

**I write in SUPPORT of SB2370-SD1, designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i**

Aloha Chairman Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

As Executive Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, I am in strong support of a proposal from the Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i.

One of the priorities of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been to develop educational materials that provide an accurate and inclusive history of Kalaupapa. We have produced two award-winning exhibits that have been displayed on every island at least once. Our educational materials are available on our website. We also help family members and school groups visit Kalaupapa.

Our 'Ohana Board was thinking of how to increase our outreach, raise awareness of Kalaupapa and celebrate the many great people who continue to inspire us today.

Kalaupapa Month will do just that. Our 'Ohana Board is asking that January be designated as Kalaupapa Month annually because so many significant events occurred throughout the history in that month. This was the month when the first 12 citizens of Hawai'i were sent to Kalaupapa; when both of Kalaupapa's Saints -- Father Damien and Mother Marianne -- were born and when the Hawai'i United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday.

Kalaupapa Month is a way for everyone to get involved in remembering the people of Kalaupapa and their important history -- and it would be a great way to start off each year.

I humbly ask for your support of SB2370-SD1, designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Valerie Monson, Executive Director  
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa





February 23, 2020

Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz  
Ways & Means Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 12:40 p.m., Room 211

**In support of SB2370 -- Kalaupapa Month**

To Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

As the population of Kalaupapa becomes smaller and smaller, it is increasingly important to find different ways to ensure that this important history is remembered in Hawai'i and throughout the world. The month of January is filled with significant dates related to this history.

On January 6, 1866, the first group of individuals was sent to Kalaupapa because they had leprosy. Accompanying these nine men and three women were at least five family members and one small boy whom they hid in their midst. One of the individuals with leprosy, Kini, was 15 years old, Kaaumoana was 16. The ages of the rest are not yet known. J.N. Loe and J.D. Kahauliko would immediately start writing letters to the Board of Health describing their situation. J.N. Loe noted that they were "in total darkness" and asked that two Hawaiian language newspapers be sent to them.

January 6, 1866 is only one of the important dates in Kalaupapa's history to take place in the month of January. Father Damien De Veuster was born on January 3; Barbara Koob, who would become Mother Marianne Cope, was born on January 23, which has been designated as her feast day; Ambrose Kanewalii Hutchison, who lived at Kalaupapa for 53 years and served as Resident Superintendent for a total of ten years, longer than any other person who was facing the physical, social and emotional challenges of leprosy, arrived at Kalaupapa on January 5, 1879.

In January, 1895, the final kama`aina, the original residents of Kalaupapa who had provided the people sent to Kalaupapa with so much assistance, were given notice that they had to leave the peninsula.

**IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity, 32 Fall Street, Suite A; P.O. Box 651, Seneca Falls, NY 13148.  
Telephone: 315-568-5838; FAX: 315-568-5891; email: [alaw@idealeprosydignity.org](mailto:alaw@idealeprosydignity.org)**

In addition, the last Sunday in January is celebrated internationally as World Leprosy Day.

Designating January as Kalaupapa Month will provide schools, churches and other organizations a special time to focus on the history of Kalaupapa and all of the individuals who were sent there.

Sincerely,

Anwei Skinsnes Law, MPH  
Director, IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity  
IDEA President for Heritage & Education  
Historian, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Henry G. Law  
First Superintendent, Kalaupapa National Historical Park

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 5:40:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| Submitted By          | Organization                         | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ellen Christine Storm | Testifying for Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa | Support            | No                 |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz,  
Chairman  
Means  
Committee  
wai'i State  
Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i  
96813

Ways and  
Ha

Bill Number SB2370-SD1

Requests that the State Legislature designate January as Kalaupapa Month.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and the Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Ellen Christine Storm. I am a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. My husband, Rev Dr Lon A Rycraft was the Protestant minister in Kalaupapa for Kanaana Hou and Siloama church (UCC) from 1993 until 2005. In the almost twelve years that we lived in Kalaupapa, we had the opportunity to be with the residents who were sent to Kalaupapa as children. To know them as elders, honor their wisdom. We believe that setting aside January as Kalaupapa Month will be a reminder to people all over Hawai'i about the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant contributions made by her people throughout the history of Hawai'i. January is the month that the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866. It is the month of the birthdays of Father Damien and Mother Marianne who have both been canonized. January is the month that the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday. Ka 'Ohana hopes that Kalaupapa Month will be a time when teachers will focus on the history of Kalaupapa in their classrooms; when more churches will pay tribute to the people of Kalaupapa who found strength and community through their faith in God.

Thank you for your time and all the work that you are doing. May you be open to the decision to make the month of January, Kalaupapa Month.

Sincerely, Ellen Christine  
Storm  
Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 9:52:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kalei Dagulo        | Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

As a member of the Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa board I am asking the Legislature to desinate January as Kalaupapa Month. Around the world commemorative months are designated to celebrate contributions and recongize accomplishments of individuals and groups who have struggled throughout history and continue to be a source of strength for many of us today.

We ask for your support of SB2370-SD1 (Kalaupapa Month) to bring awareness and also to celebrate the contributions of those who lived in Kalaupapa right here in our state of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support!

Kalei Dagulo

daguloohana@hawaii.rr.com



**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:06:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
Hawai`i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370-SD1

Hearing: February 25, 2019, 12:40 p.m.  
Room 211, Hawai`i State Capitol

**I write in support of SB2370-SD1, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be Observed Annually.**

Aloha Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz, and Members of Ways and Means Committee

My name is Colin Brede. I am the nephew of David Kalani Kaluai Brede (1933-2009) and Jimmy Aheana Brede (1929-2016) who was taken from their love ones and sent to Kalaupapa 15 May 1942 at the young ages of 9 and 13. David and Jimmy are siblings of my father John P Brede (1930-2017).

I am writing in strong support of SB 2370. Perhaps no month contains no more important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa than the month of January. This is the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; the month of the birthdays of Father Damien and Mother Marianne who have both been canonized; the month when the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday – and other important dates.

Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa believes that Kalaupapa Month will be an annual reminder to people all over Hawai`i and the world about the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant contributions made by her people throughout the history of Hawai`i. Ka `Ohana also hopes that Kalaupapa Month will be a time when teachers will focus on the history of Kalaupapa in their classrooms and when more churches will pay tribute to the people of Kalaupapa who found strength and community through their faith in God.

My Family the Brede's and Apio's, humbly ask for your support of SB2370-SD1, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i that will be Observed Annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin K Brede

Nephew of David Brede, Jimmy Brede and Nancy Brede

Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Friend of Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise

[ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com)

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
Hawai`i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370—SD1

Hearing: February 25, 2019, 12:40 p.m.  
Room 211, Hawai`i State Capitol

**I write in support of SB2370—SD1, Kalaupapa Month**

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Susan Woo Smith. I am the great-granddaughter of Wong Chew, who was taken from his family in 1931 to Kalihi Hospital, then forced to reside in Kalaupapa from 1935-1939.

Before retiring, I was an educator for 32 years, as an elementary classroom teacher, middle school assistant principal, and elementary school principal. History is integral to education, recognizing significant events and the impact of these events on culture and on people. Kalaupapa directly affected the lives of 8,000 individuals, the lives of their families, communities, and those who dedicated their lives to serve. It is important to acknowledge the strength and perseverance of the people of Kalaupapa and their contributions to Hawai`i. Kalaupapa Month will designate time for teachers and churches to recognize and focus on this pivotal aspect of history.

The month of January holds significant dates in the history of Kalaupapa: the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; Father Damien's date of birth was January 3, 1840; Mother Marianne's date of birth was January 23, 1838. Additionally, the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday in January.

I am writing in strong support of SB2370—SD1, which would designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i and would be observed annually.

I request your support of SB2370—SD1, designating January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i.

Respectfully,  
Susan Woo Smith  
Great-Granddaughter of Wong Chew  
[susanjwsmith@gmail.com](mailto:susanjwsmith@gmail.com)

*Sister Alicia Damien Lau, osf  
15 Bishop Home #0129  
P.P. Box 129  
Kalaupapa, HI 96742  
February 23, 2020*

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370  
Hearing: February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.  
Room 211, Hawai'i State Capitol

Kalaupapa Month – SB2370

**I write in support of SB2370, to designate January as Kalaupapa Month;**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Sister Alicia Damien Lau, a Sister of St Francis from the Order of Saint Marianne Cope who arrived in 1883 at the request of King Kalakaua and Queen Kapiolani, to care of those Hawaiian people who were afflicted with the disease of leprosy. Mother Marianne Cope came to Kalaupapa on November 14, 1888 and our Sisters have been here continuously since then. I came down to Kalaupapa in 1965 and had met many of the patients since then, spending weekends several times a month in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. In 2012, when I retired from healthcare, I spent half of my time, and later, three-fourths time in Kalaupapa as a National Park Service Volunteer. Now, I am in Kalaupapa full time a NPS Volunteer and a part time employee of The Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore.

January has been a significant month for Kalaupapa. It is the month when the first twelve people sent to Kalaupapa arrived in 1866. It is the month of both Saint Damien deVaster and Saint Marianne Cope's birthdays. Both of these religious left their homelands to care for the Hawaiian people. Ambrose Hutchison arrived in January, spent 53 years serving as resident superintendent, during which many of those years he worked alongside of Fr. Damien and Mother Marianne. We celebrate the feast day of St. Marianne Cope on January 23 of each year.

I strongly support of SB 2370 - to designate January as Kalaupapa Month and believe that it would be a reminder to all people in Hawaii and elsewhere, about the importance of Kalaupapa and its significant contribution made by the 8000 people who, by their isolation, helped stop the spread of leprosy.

I, and all the Sisters, who lived, worked and cared for the resident/patients, ask for your support of SB2370 to designate January as Kalaupapa Month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sister Alicia Damien Lau, osf  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
[adlau@sosf.org](mailto:adlau@sosf.org)

**Kehaulani Lum**  
**99-045 Nalopaka Place**  
**`Aiea, Hawai`i 96701**

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2370, SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**  
**Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.**  
**Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I strongly support the passage of SB 2370, SD1, which designates the month of January as Kalaupapa Month.

This measure holds significant importance for descendants of the 8,000 people who were exiled to the barren peninsula, for decades, and forced to fend for themselves, until they took their last breaths.

Descendants, such as my `ohana, who, in the early 1900s, lost four beautiful children to the mass isolation; three of whom were never seen again. They never returned to their homes. They never saw or hugged their parents and grandparents again. They never laughed with their playmates. They never received medals, compensation or special awards. Most of them simply faded into the abyss of history, with a number held against their chests.

They were the ultimate practitioners of the spirit of Aloha, and this measure will remember them and shine light upon their incredible sacrifices, to alleviate the suffering of others.

What started as a story of grief, loneliness, separation and hunger, can be transformed, through an annual month of awareness, into strength, dignity and resilience; powerful lessons for present and future generations. Moreover, it will ensure that such injustice never happens again.

We thank you, in advance, for giving Hawai`i's ultimate heroes the recognition that they have been due, for over 100 years.

Me ke aloha nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
Hawai`i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370

Hearing: February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.  
Room 211, Hawai`i State Capitol

**I write in support of SB2370, designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Jason Umemoto. I am on the Board of Directors of Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa. My involvement is directly related to my relationship with my grand-uncle Ed Kato, who was a long-time resident-patient at Kalaupapa.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2370 which would designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i and that it would be observed annually.

January is an important month for the community of Kalaupapa. The first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in January 1866. This is also the month of Saint Damien and Saint Marianne birthdays and month of canonization. The United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday in January.

I believe Kalaupapa Month will be an annual reminder about the importance of the Kalaupapa community and history. It can also be a celebration of the significant contributions made by the resident-patients of the community throughout the history of Hawai`i. It is an opportunity for schools, churches and community groups to pay tribute and provide education relating to the people and history of Kalaupapa.

We humbly ask for your support of SB2370 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason Umemoto

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:14:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tessa Munekiyo Ng   | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB 2370 establishing Kalaupapa Month. Kalaupapa Month will be an annual reminder to people all over Hawai`i about the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant contributions made by her people throughout the history of Hawai`i.



**Testimony of Lorna Catalani  
Granddaughter of Leon Nono, deceased**

**Before the Hawai`i State Legislature  
Ways and Means Committee**

**February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.  
Room 211, Hawai`i State Capitol**

**In Support of Bill Number SB 2370, Relating to Kalaupapa Month**

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Lorna Catalani, and I am the proud granddaughter of Leon Nono. My grandfather was sent to Kalaupapa in 1941 at the age of 36 and lived his life there for 62 years.

I am writing in support of SB 2370. The month of January contains important dates throughout the history of the residents of Kalaupapa than any other month. This is the month when in 1866 the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa; the birthdays of both Father Damien and Mother Marianne are celebrated; and also the month when the State of Hawaii officially closed Hale Mohalu – a facility established in order to enable the people who were in need of more sophisticated medical care than was available at Kalaupapa. Hale Mohalu became was a home-extension to Kalaupapa, and to many became a place to live near Honolulu hospitals where expensive equipment and better medical care was available.

Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa is asking the Legislature to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be observed annually.

I humbly ask for your support of SB 2370 to designate January as Kalaupapa Month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna Catalani  
[lcatalani1160@yahoo.com](mailto:lcatalani1160@yahoo.com)

**LATE**

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 2:03:02 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cheryl Reeser       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2370 SD1, requesting January to be designated as Kalaupapa Month. I am the great, great granddaughter of a Kalaupapa patient who was banished to Kalaupapa for the remainder of her life, removed permanently from her loved ones. In addition my late parents, Don and Bunnie Reeser, worked tirelessly to memorialize and honor the Kalaupapa patients who were sent there, as well as their families who experienced such loss, and others who lived and took care of them. This is an important chapter in Hawaii's history that should be recognized for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Cheryl Kuulei Reeser

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2020 1:04:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rayne               | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: