

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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WRITTEN ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2796
RELATING TO THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL**

SENATOR BRIAN TANIGUCHI, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Hearing Date: 2/11/2020

Room Number: 224

1 This bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from general revenues for the design, plans and construction of
2 a Kalaupapa monument memorializing the approximately 8,000 Hansen's disease patients that
3 were sent there for isolation between 1866 and 2069 and the tremendous impact this forced
4 separation had on individuals, families and communities in Hawaii.

5 The department recognizes the value of this memorial and supports the intent of SB2796 so long
6 as appropriations do not displace priorities described in the Governor's Supplemental Budget.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 8:47:25 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lopaka Hoopii	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa	Support	No

Comments:

My father, Robert, was born in Kalaupapa in 1929. He, along with 6 other siblings, were separated from their parents and sent to an orphanage in Kalihi. Two other brothers were eventually sent back to Kalaupapa because it was believed they contracted Hansen's Disease. His parents (my grandparents) along with two brothers (uncles) and their wives (aunts) are buried in Kalaupapa. Although they have marked gravesites, I have one aunt on my mother's side, whose gravesite has never been located. There are many others, like me, who have similar stories to tell.

This memorial will list the names of all, nearly 8,000 residents who have lived in Kalaupapa. Nearly 2,000 of them have unmarked or unlocated gravesites.

Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has been working for over a decade to have this memorial built to honor those 8,000 residents who deserve to be honored for their sacrifices. Please make this happen.

Mahalo nui,

Lopaka Hoopii

(Director - Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa, member of Kalaupapa Memorial Design Committee)

February 9, 2020

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman, Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee,
State of Hawaii Legislature , Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Senate Bill Number: SB2796 , Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.

I write in SUPPORT OF SB2796 and the funding of \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee (LCA)

I am writing this support letter as a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa ('Ohana) in 2003 and as a current member of the 'Ohana Board, as well as, someone who has had the privilege of representing Santa Claus at Kalaupapa annual Christmas party for the past 27 years.

My letter is also written in remembrance of the many friends I was fortunate to have at Kalaupapa, who have passed away. The Memorial project was their dream, a dream that they fostered over the years along with their extended family members.

They had hoped to be present at the unveiling of a completed Memorial. Today there are only 12 remaining individuals who have the right to live at Kalaupapa. They too would like to be present at the unveiling of a completed Memorial, which is a tribute to all the brave individuals who sacrificed so much for the perceived betterment of society. The Memorial is a long overdue tribute.

Helen Keller sent a letter dated August 23, 1960 to the Kalaupapa residents sharing her thoughts and saying, "*For many years I have read with affection about you and my heart goes out to you in this message. You are among the bravest people of whom I know, and I am most humble to receive Mr. Marks' letter asking me to greet you.*"

The Memorial will include the names of all 8,000 individuals forcibly separated from their families and lives and sent to Kalaupapa—individuals from all walks of life and from all islands throughout the State. This is reflected on a short video on the 'Ohana website (kalaupapaohana.org), which received a historic preservation award from Historic Hawaii Foundation., one of five such awards the organization has bestowed on the 'Ohana for its work at Kalaupapa.

So much has been accomplished to bring the Memorial project to where it is today. The Memorial design and strong quotes from some of the Kalaupapa residents on the importance of the Memorial are shared in the two attached brochures entitled "In Spirit We Are All Together" and "The Kalaupapa Memorial". These two documents were delivered to all the members of the LCA last week along with a compelling 'Ohana newsletter entitled "You Have to Know Their Names". A few of compelling quotes from these documents include the following:

Cathrine Puahala, sent to Kalaupapa on May 15, 1942, a few years after being taken away from her family at age 9 said, "I think we deserve to be remembered. We are part of this world. The people outside of Kalaupapa should know that we did one great thing: we were incarcerated here just for their sake because they thought we were contagious. We didn't want to be sent here. It was for the safety of other people that we were put away. Greater love hath no man than to give up his life for a friend. That's what we did."

Catherine's daughter, Pauline Ka'iulani Hess shared, *"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."*

Peter Keola, Jr, who was born in Honolulu and passed away in Kalaupapa in 2007, pointed out that *"It is good for people to remember who were there before us. It is just like those who went to war and had died, there are monuments with their names on it. There were thousands who were sent to Kalaupapa. My mother was also sent to Kalaupapa,"*

In line with Peter Keola's statement above, there are many War Memorials and dedicated cemeteries throughout the state, including two on the State Capitol grounds—the Korean/Vietnam Memorial honoring 456 who died, and the Law Enforcement Memorial honoring the 65 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Both these Memorial's are located on the Capitol grounds. The Kalaupapa Memorial will honor 8,000 Hawaii citizens

In 2014, the State Legislature received a report prepared by the State Department of Defense, Office of Veteran Services addressing an assessment of the State's War Memorials and cemeteries.

The report's introduction included the following, which gives rise to the need for the Kalaupapa Memorial to preserve an important Chapter in Hawaii's history: *"The State's war memorials are intended to remind future generations of Hawaii's residents of our values and freedoms for which so many of our sons and daughters sacrificed their lives.*

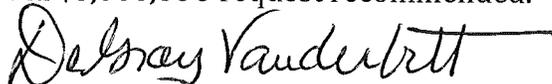
Hawaii's State war memorials and veterans' cemeteries are our promise to veterans that their deeds, service, names will not be forgotten. In 1976, the legislature declared that the historical heritage of the state is among one of our most important assets. This sentiment was codified in section 6E-1 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes...to ensure the preservation and enhancement of historic property such as our memorials, veterans' cemeteries for future generations."

These statements are reflective of the compelling statements noted earlier in my testimony from Kalaupapa residents Cathrine Puahala and Peter Keola and from Pauline Ka'iulani Hess, who was born at Kalaupapa.

Less than 1,000 of the individuals who died at Kalaupapa still have a marked grave that can be identified. More than 7,000 lie in unmarked graves and their names are no longer part of the landscape where they lived together and built a community under the most difficult of circumstances. The Memorial would serve as a communal tombstone for these thousands of people, more than 90 percent of whom were Native Hawaiians, to ensure that they are an integral part of the history that they helped to create. The Memorial would also provide family members with a fitting place to pay tribute to their ancestors and find pride and healing.

I fully support SB2796 and hope that your Committee will pass it out to the Senate Ways and Means Committee with the full \$5,000,000 request recommended.

Respectfully submitted,


DeGray Vanderbilt Phone: (808) 283-8171; Email: degray.vanderbilt@gmail.com

Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa



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

. . . To Honor and To Perpetuate"

Kalaupapa

In Spirit We are All Together:

The Kalaupapa Memorial



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

Photo: Valerie Monson

POHO * DIRECTION * UNDERSTANDING * COMMUNICATION * CHERISH * EFFORT * LOVE * UNITY * REMEMBER

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



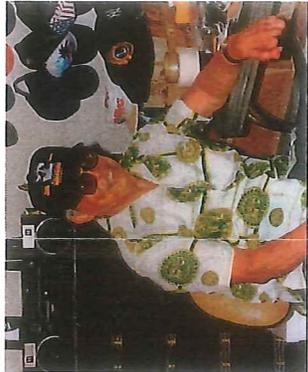
"I want to see a monument honoring the people of Kalaupapa before I die. I want to see all the names. These people are my friends—even though many of them died before I came here and I didn't know them personally, in spirit we are all together. I know their hearts and souls"

— **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"

— **Kaula Bell**, postmistress, first President of Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa, sent to Kalaupapa in 1956.
Photo: Deary 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 Puhala**, 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. Punikait**, 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 Kalaupapa is standing right in front of you. It will bring tears to my eyes"

— **Clarence "Boogie" Kahihuiwa**, 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"

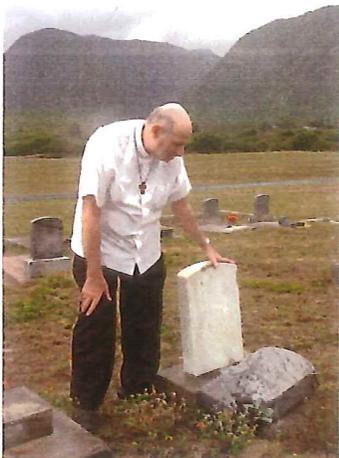
— **Pauline Ka'ulani Hess**, daughter of Catherine and Jubilee Puhala, testimony in support of The Kalaupapa Memorial Act.
Photo: Wayne Levin

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

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



"Feel it! Feel the Spirit of the People."
 — **Pi'olani Motta**, urging officials in Hawai'i to support The Kalaupapa Memorial. Ms. Motta is a Founding Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and the Kalaupapa Memorial Committee. Her mother was born at Kalaupapa and her grandparents live in unmarked graves.
 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

The Kalaupapa Memorial



The Kalaupapa Memorial will list and preserve the names of each of the estimated 8,000 men, women and children who were taken from their families and forcibly isolated at Kalaupapa. It will return the people of Kalaupapa to the history they helped create while providing families and visitors with a place to find healing and pride.

Today, fewer than 1,000 graves remain that can be identified with names. The Kalaupapa Memorial will be a living memorial as new generations learn of the sacrifices, strength and resilience of their ancestors.

Please send your donations to:

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

PO Box 1111

Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742

Or you may donate using PayPal by visiting our 'Ohana website

www.kalaupapaohana.org

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

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

. . . To Honor and To Perpetuate"

www.kalaupapaohana.org



The Kalaupapa Choir at St. Philomena Church, 1901.
Photo courtesy of IDEEA Archives.

The history of Kalaupapa has often been told with little mention of the lives of the people who were sent there. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has made it our mission to remember each person by their name — and to learn as much as possible about each individual's life. The Kalaupapa Memorial, to be located across from St. Philomena Church on the Kalawao side of the peninsula, will become a place of profound dignity where all the names of those isolated at Kalaupapa will be prominently displayed while providing descendants with a place to find healing and pride.



Rendering of descendants or visitors viewing the names on The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Help Establish The Kalaupapa Memorial

You can help build The Kalaupapa Memorial and ensure that the people of Kalaupapa are remembered for generations to come. Please mail your donations to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, PO Box 1111, Kalaupapa, Hawai'i 96742 or via PayPal on our website: www.kalaupapaohana.org. Mahalo in advance.

"The Memorial will be their everlasting presence at Kalaupapa..."

—Pauline Ka'iulani Puahala Hess

daughter of longtime Kalaupapa residents
Cathrine and Jubilee Puahala

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Amount _____



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of every individual who was taken from their family and sent to Kalaupapa beginning in 1856. The 'Ohana, which was the vision of the late Kalaupapa leader Bernard Puniala'a, is made up of Kalaupapa residents, family members, descendants, longtime friends and anyone who has been inspired by the stories of the people of Kalaupapa.

The Kalaupapa Memorial



The Kalaupapa Memorial will list the names of everyone who was forcibly isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula because of government policies regarding leprosy, now also called Hansen's disease. President Barack Obama signed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that authorized Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish the Memorial. Of the estimated 8,000 people who died at Kalaupapa, fewer than 1,000 have graves that can be identified. The Memorial will return all of these individuals to the history of their families, the history of Kalaupapa, the history of Hawai'i and the history of the world.



www.kalaupapaohana.org

Photo: DeGray Vanderbilt



Photo: Valerie Monson



Photo: Valerie Monson



Photo: Wayne Levin

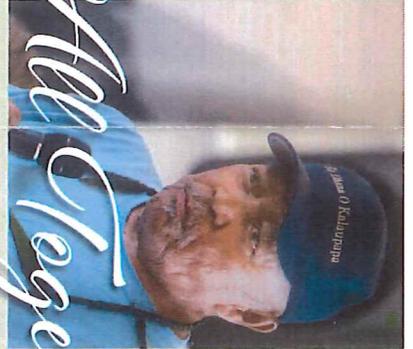


Photo: Valerie Monson



In Spirit We are All Together

"All the people who were here, you can feel their spirit. They don't want to be forgotten. The Memorial is the most important thing."

—**Kulei Bell**, postmistress, first President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, sent to Kalaupapa in 1956

"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 Punikati'a**, musician, composer, human rights activist, sent to Kalaupapa in 1942

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

—**Olivia Breitha**, author and human rights activist, sent to Kalaupapa in 1937

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

—**Clarence "Boogie" Kahiliwa**, President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, admitted to Kalaupapa in 1959

"I hope that the Memorial is something everyone will want to see so they can read the names. Once we're gone, we're gone, but the Memorial will be here forever."

—**Gloria Marks**, businesswoman and Chairwoman of the Kalaupapa Patients Advisory Council, admitted to Kalaupapa in 1960



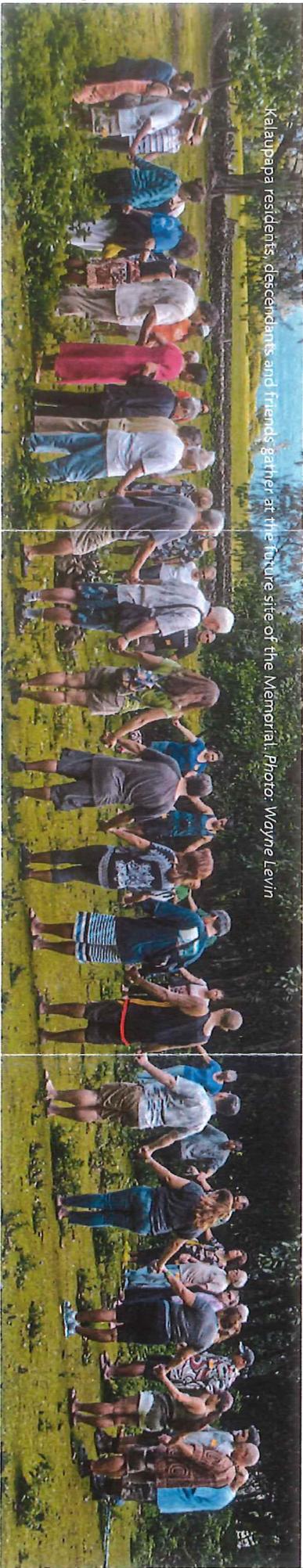
"My Dad, Robert Hoopii, as well as six of his siblings, were born in Kalaupapa. My grandparents, Alexander Welau Hoopii and Mary Keakealani Kawai Hoopii lived and died in Kalaupapa. Two Uncles, an Aunt, and Granduncle also lived and are buried in Kalaupapa. "This Memorial is important to me because it is important to my Father and to my Kupuna who lived there. It is important to my Father and our Kupuna who want to see and honor all the names of all the people who have lived on the Makanala Peninsula. I want to serve the ancestors of Kalaupapa by ensuring this Memorial is built and that our children can continue this legacy;"

—**Lopaka Hoopii**, far left in the picture with his father, Robert; brother, Kaui; and son Lokahi. The Hoopii men are standing on the porch of the house at Kalaupapa built by Robert's father, Alexander Hoopii. Photo: Wayne Levin



Father Damien surrounded by the boys and young men of Kalawao, 1889. Photo: William Brigham, Courtesy of Hawaii's State Archives

Kalaupapa residents, descendants and friends gather at the future site of the Memorial. Photo: Wayne Levin



Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Art Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 968813

Bill Number: SB2796

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 3 p.m.

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Susan Woo Smith. I am the great-granddaughter of Wong Chew, who was taken from his family in 1931 and forced to reside in Kalaupapa from 1935-1939. In 2016, I began a journey to learn about my great-grandfather. At the time, I didn't even know his name; little was ever spoken about him, I only knew he had been taken from his family by "Men in white coats." I have since come to know Wong Chew, my great-grandfather, as a successful businessman, husband, and father of thirteen children. In 2018, I went to Kalaupapa to pay homage to my great-grandfather. I anticipated a trip of great sadness; but instead, I discovered Kalaupapa, a community of people whose strength and courage built that community. Realizing this brought pride, rather than shame, to my family.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. The Memorial will provide dignity for the 8,000 men, women, and children forcibly sent and isolated at Kalaupapa. It will remember and honor them by name. It will be a Memorial where the present and future generations can pay homage to the people sent to Kalaupapa, find healing, and acknowledge this important part of history.

I ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully,
Susan Woo Smith
Great-Granddaughter of Wong Chew
susanjwsmith@gmail.com

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Velda N Akamu	Testifying for Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club, Kapaau, HI 96755	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair of Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee and Committee members;

From: Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club and Pelekikena Velda Napua Akamu

Aloha Senators and mahalo for your time and attention to our kuleana. I am currently the pelekikena(president) of Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club, located in North Kohala, Hawaii island. I write to call attention to a Resolution No. 2019 -35 that our club submitted at Our Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Convention, held just this past November 16, 2019, on Maui Island. The resolution title is "Recognizing Ka 'Ohana 'O Kalaupapa's Commitment To The Establishment Of The Memorial At Kalaupapa." This resolution was unanimously passed by at least 400 delegates in attendance from our state as well as our mainland clubs.

I am also personally involved with Kalaupapa. I was in the 3rd grade when I found out I was adopted, and that word followed me and my life. My Mother and Father were sent as children to Kalaupapa. This is my story and I eventually met my parents whom I loved and laid to rest at Kalaupapa. We still have residents remaining, and remember they were forced-no choce to be exiled. They were/are good people and they want to "SEE" this memorial while I'm still alive---these are their words, from their voices to my ears and now to you. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE KOKUA....MAKANA!

MAHALO.....Napua Akamu a me ka Maunu a me Kaona, Acob, Kahananui, Aki...

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 1:19:33 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dita Ramler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature

Bill Number: SB2796
Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts

My name is Dita Ramler.

I have worked as an educator for 30 years in public and private schools.

Kalaupapa's is a very important part of Hawaii's history. The people who lived there are an example to all Hawaii's children of resilience, faith ,and hope. Much needed these days.This memorial will live on for many generations as a reminder of that legacy.

Kalaupapa is a special place full of aloha , steeped in spiritual and historical significance.

A memorial will give closure to many families whose family member graves are yet unmarked and

give Hawaii's people a place to come ,learn, remember and honor them.

Respectfully,

Dita Ramler

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:12:22 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tessa Munekiyo Ng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Tessa Munekiyo Ng and I am a member of the Kalaupapa Memorial Design Committee. I have been working with the Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa for many years to help make this important Memorial a reality.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial.

The United States Congress passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, authorizing Ka 'Ohana to establish the Memorial. Since that time, the 'Ohana has been involved in federal and state compliance processes, assembled a strong Memorial Committee that produced a beautiful and meaningful design for the Memorial, compiled the names of nearly 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, and developed a fundraising strategy.

The names of the people of Kalaupapa have been mostly forgotten over the years and left out of the history that they helped to create. The Kalaupapa Memorial will make certain that they will be forever remembered and returned to the history of Kalaupapa and their family histories. The Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names.

We humbly ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Tessa Munekiyo Ng

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts
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 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. Our ‘Ohana has been working on this important project since the Kalaupapa residents asked us to establish a Memorial at Kalaupapa that would list the names of everyone sent there.

Uncle David is buried in the catholic section at Kalaupapa with a headstone marking his grave site. Uncle Jimmy and his wife Aunty Nancy ashes was spread in Kalaupapa Bay 2016.

The names of the people of Kalaupapa have been mostly forgotten over the years and left out of the history that they helped to create. The Kalaupapa Memorial will make certain that they will be forever remembered and returned to the history of Kalaupapa and their family histories. The Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names.

The United States Congress passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, authorizing Ka ‘Ohana to establish the Memorial. I ‘am an active member of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, we have been

involved in federal and state compliance processes, assembled a strong Memorial Committee that produced a beautiful and meaningful design for the Memorial, compiled the names of nearly 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, and developed a fundraising strategy.

My Family the Brede's and Apio's, humbly ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin K Brede

Nephew of David Brede, Jimmy Brede and Nancy Brede

Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Hello Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Bruce Doneux. I lived and worked at Kalaupapa for four years, beginning in 1974, and off-and-on until 1984. I had the privilege of working in the hospital. During that time, I became friends with many of the folks sent to the settlement and listened to the many stories surrounding their lives and the history of Kalaupapa. I was inspired to create and work on a history project related to the settlement. I am also a member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa which seeks to preserve and honor the legacy of everyone sent there.

I sincerely hope the Memorial can be funded and built as an enduring reminder of those who not only endured the hardships and challenges presented to them but displayed courage, perseverance and dignity given their circumstances. Indeed, by simply going about their daily lives, they displayed a strength and determination as an example for all of us. They also showed real courage in confronting the greater culture's ignorance and intolerance of them.

Father Damien and Mother Marianne both saw the inherent human value of those sent to Kalaupapa. There is an intrinsic value and meaning for all of us in the lives and stories of these people. The Memorial would be a wonderful way to help preserve the life stories of the people of Kalaupapa by acknowledging and preserving their names on the monument.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Doneux

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

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2796, Relating to the Kalaupapa Memorial
House Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and, on behalf of my family, I strongly support SB 2796, which authorizes \$5,000,000 for the design, plan and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

This cherished Memorial will remember and honor all the people of Kalaupapa by their name. Many of them belonged to children and have been forgotten over the years and left out of history. The Memorial will serve as a symbol of justice, a place of healing, family reunification and remembrance, especially, for our `ohana, who still carries the pain of separation, from one generation to the next.

My late granduncle, Henry Kalalahilimoku Nala`ielua, was only 10 years old when he was sent alone to Kalaupapa, in 1941. Three of his siblings were isolated there, as well, yet, he found, upon his arrival, that they had all died, within only a few years of landing. Uncle Henry testified to the U.S. Senate, in 2009, calling for the creation of a Memorial:

“I believe that the Memorial will be a place that people could go to,” he said, “and just by looking at the list, they find a relative or friends they knew...I think for me it would be a cherished memory to have a monument that tells the people this is what we wanted and this is what they have.”

A year after delivering his testimony, Uncle took his last breath. He did not live to see his earthly dream fulfilled, but through the compassion and commitment of all of you, the 'Ohana, and a prestigious volunteer design team, it is coming to life.

8,000 beloved individuals were exiled to Kalaupapa, most of who died there and are buried without tombstones, and, yet, we have no sacred site to honor and reflect upon their great sacrifices. This is a way for us, a civilized and enlightened society, to give them, in death, what they were denied in life....our deepest gratitude and Aloha.

Mahalo nui loa for your support of this measure and for shining a light on our heroes.

Me ke aloha nui loa, Kehaulani Lum

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Hitoshi Hida. It is my honor to be invited to assist the Memorial Committee in developing the conceptual design for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

It was in June of 2015 when I went to Kalaupapa first time with the Memorial Committee members. It was on the flight to Kalaupapa that I was shown a conceptual design and felt it was divinely inspired. The Committee and Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa accepted the design and since then they have been using the design to give the vision and to promote the project.

The concept is composed of two circles each representing the people with Hansen's disease who were sent away to Kalaupapa and the family who were left behind. This memorial helps to pull the two circles together and reconnect the families who were separated. There is also a stone wall surrounding Mauka-side circle with the names of the 8000 patients to be inscribed onto it to celebrate their lives.

I think it is important for our generations to memorialize these people and their family as well as the place. Therefore we humbly ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding of \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,
Hitoshi Hida
Hitoshi.hida@outlook.com

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`I 96813

Bill Number: SB2796

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Jason Umemoto. I am on the Board of Directors of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa and have been serving as the Chairperson of the Kalaupapa Memorial Committee. My involvement is directly related to my relationship with my grand-uncle Ed Kato, who was a long-time resident-patient at Kalaupapa. The Committee is comprised of current residents, descendants, ‘Ohana members and dedicated professional consultants all seeking to realize this dream to provide a touchstone to ancestors and celebrate their community.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. In particular, my Uncle Ed spoke to me about the idea of a memorial for many years when it was just an idea being carried by the community to try and establish a way to memorialize the community and dramatic history of the peninsula

The names of the people of Kalaupapa have been mostly forgotten over the years and left out of the history that they helped to create. The Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names.

We humbly ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Umemoto, Chair, Kalaupapa Memorial Committee
Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, Director

February 9, 2020

**Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee, Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

Bill Number: SB2796

**Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol**

I write in funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial support of SB2796

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the family of Margarete Lucie Georgine Buns Weber who was a patient that died on February 25, 1917 and is buried in Kalaupapa, Moloka'i. We assume because of her date of death that she is buried in the area where many of the markers were washed away by the tidal wave.

Kalaupapa is a place like no other. Once you visit there, you leave a different person. There are more than 8,000 stories of pain and sorrow by people of many different races and cultures who were forced to come together and as a result created their own culture.

A memorial honoring the people sent to Kalaupapa would not only help the families bring long awaited closure of their loved ones buried there but be a profound life experience to all those that visit. Kalaupapa has a story to tell and that story is a very important part of our history here in the Islands as well as around the world.

My great-grandmother's life and death in Kalaupapa was a huge mystery to my family, as was her young grandson "Willie Olsen" who died at the Leahi Hospital on Oahu. I learned of her from my father when I was a young child and as an adult, when I wrote to my family about her, I discovered that I was one of the two family members who knew of her illness and where she was laid to rest. What a shame that her family wasn't able to mourn her as she deserved, but that's the way it was for many of the patients at Kalaupapa in those days.

Like many of the Ohana O'Kalaupapa I anxiously await the day that I will have a place to lay my lei in honor of my great-grandmother who traveled as a young lady from Germany with dreams of raising her family in her new country which she loved and now called home.

Sincerely,

**Marilyn Puanani Janssen Cleghorn
P.O. Box 359,
Kula, HI 96790
(808)878-6170**

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:18:29 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial. 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 bring this memorial to fruition and honor the patients who were sent their as well as their families who experienced such loss.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Cheryl Kuulei Reeser

February 11, 2020
3:00 P.M.
Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

**TESTIMONY ON S.B. 2796
RELATING TO THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL**

Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. My name is Patrick Boland and I am in strong support of the bill.

I first visited Kalaupapa 53 years ago. Since that time I have become friends with many of the residents, and have become an avid student of the history and people of the place. The people are remarkable and their stories and accomplishments are compelling. They deserve to be properly remembered and honored.

Of the approximately 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, more than 6,000 are in unmarked graves. There is no visible display of their names. This memorial will remedy that lack.

I would like to point out that in 2008 both houses of the Legislature passed S.C.R. No. 208 which recognized and acknowledged the people of Kalaupapa and their families for their sacrifices, and apologizing for harsh government policies. Funding the Kalaupapa memorial is a logical (and just) next step.

Again, I ask you to support this measure and thank you for your attention.

Patrick Boland
45-665 Uhilehua St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
boland@lava.net

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:00:14 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
liz anne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this memorial. It is important that we continue to honor those that suffered and died from Hansens Disease. We need to continue to educate others about this issue and the memorial will serve to honor those that were unfairly treated.



February 9, 2020

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.; Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol
In support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

To Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee:

The people of Kalaupapa and Kalawao have been speaking to us for more than 154 years. They have written and signed thousands of letters and petitions, participated in oral history projects, been interviewed for newspaper articles, and testified on numerous occasions before various government agencies. There are several different admission records filled with thousands of names, written and re-written to ensure that the names of all those sent to Kalaupapa would be part of the permanent record of the history of Hawai'i.

I have been going to Kalaupapa for over 50 years – since I was a junior at Kalani High School. My father was on the Citizen's Committee that changed the century-old isolation policy in 1969. I have conducted more than 200 hours of oral history interviews with the residents of Kalaupapa, some of who were sent there as early as 1914 and 1915. My book, *Kalaupapa: A Collective Memory* is filled with the names of and words of people who were taken from their families and friends because they had leprosy.

Over my half century of researching the history of leprosy in Hawaii and working to present this history in the words of the people who experienced it, I have observed two constants:

- 1) A strong determination on the part of those individuals sent to Kalaupapa that this history and the people who lived it are remembered;
- 2) An expectation of justice. Petitions and letters expressed the belief that justice and dignity would prevail in a situation that was so filled with deep personal pain, separation, and hardship.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will enable us to tell an inclusive history of Kalaupapa. It will proudly serve as a permanent symbol of justice for the estimated 8,000 individuals sent to Kalaupapa as it

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

returns them to the history of their families, the history of Kalaupapa, the history of Hawai'i and the history of the world.

When I first visited Kalaupapa there were about 200 permanent residents – there are now 12. We hope that the Hawai'i State Legislature will proudly support the Kalaupapa Memorial through passage of SB2796 so that the final residents of Kalaupapa will be able to personally witness all of the names come back to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anwei S. Law".

Anwei Skinsnes Law, MPH

Director, IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity; IDEA President for Heritage & Education
Historian, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

2344 Lower Lake Road
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

February 9, 2020

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.; Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

In support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

To Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee:

I first visited Kalaupapa in 1977 as an historical architect. I was part of an effort to review the condition of some 400 buildings and make recommendations on repair needs including rough cost estimates. This was a small part of a legislated planning effort to determine the feasibility of having Kalaupapa designated as part of the National Park System.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park (NHP) was authorized by an act of Congress and signed into law in December 1980. I was hired in 1982 as the first and only permanent NPS employee until Kalaupapa NHP received its first annual appropriations in fiscal year 1985. At that time I was appointed the first Superintendent. In conversations with the residents about what they felt was most important for the National Park Service to focus on, they overwhelmingly said that they wanted to see the graveyards cleared and all of the graves and taken care of. It was clear that they wanted to be remembered and wanted those who had come before them to be remembered.

Clearing the graves is a way to honor both the past and present residents and it became the top priority for the NPS when I was Superintendent and continues to be a priority today. I was at Kalaupapa in early February and was very happy to see how good the graveyards look. However, there are only a little more than 1,000 identified graves at Kalaupapa out of an estimated 8,000 people who were sent there. There is a field next to Father Damien's Church and across from the site of the Kalaupapa Memorial that has about 2,000 unmarked graves. The Kalaupapa Memorial will honor all of these individuals and ensure that every person who was sent to Kalaupapa is remembered and included in their own history. The Kalaupapa Memorial will serve to remember their lives and legacies for the education and inspiration of present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Henry G. Law
First Superintendent, Kalaupapa National Historical Park
hlaw@idealeprosydignity.org; 315-568-5838

To: Brian Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Bill Number : SB2796

Hearing: February 11, 2020, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

Aloha mai kakou, My name is Kalapana Kollars and I am writing to you on behalf of my 'ohana, and as a member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.

Words cannot express the magnitude of insight and healing that has come from the work that Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has facilitated for our family. This *'ike* has been profound for us, and we know it will exponentially benefit our own descendants.

In our family, three generations of our beloved kupuna were sent to Kalaupapa and are buried in unmarked graves. This continues into a rather recent history for us—our great grandmother was born at Kalaupapa, and named me and my (Gen X) siblings.

I am writing in support of SB2796 which will provide critical funding for the construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. Countless families like ours go to Kalaupapa to re-connect with our family gravesites. However without a memorial site there is no place to see and honor their names.

Having a memorial with all of the names of the people sent to Kalaupapa will provide humanity (not just people of Hawai'i) with a tangible place to know the many brave souls who lived out their lives there. It will serve future generations, beyond ours to remember these kupuna and perhaps more readily open the door to reconnecting with them.

On behalf the three generations of my family who were sent to and buried at Kalaupapa, their many descendants living today (and yet to come), and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, I humbly ask your support for SB2796.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Kalapana Kollars

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796
Hearing: February 11, 2020, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

Support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Marcia Weight Lyons. I am a member of, and a volunteer with *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa*. I am writing in support of SB2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* has been working on this project since the Kalaupapa residents expressed the importance of their desire to establish a Memorial in Kalaupapa that would list the names of everyone sent there.

My father, Edward Weight, was born in Kalaupapa, taken from his parents who he never met, and lived his childhood in an orphanage and foster homes. My grandparents, who were sent to Kalaupapa, and two of their sons are buried there. I have had opportunities to hear the few remaining residents share their stories, feelings, and thoughts on what it would mean to them to have this memorial built and I feel that they speak for my family and all of those who lived and died in Kalaupapa since 1866.

My Dad was 81 years old when he became involved with *Ka 'Ohana* and he met other families with Kalaupapa connections. With these people he was able to open up and share a part of himself that was locked away. With these people he realized he was not alone. I witnessed a sense of peace and a shift in his sense of self that I attribute to his ability to connect himself to his mother as well as other people who shared stories with similarities to his own. I saw my father come to a new understanding of who he was and a sense of belonging to a place and his own family. This is why I know that the Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection and healing for descendants.

Please support SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Mahalo,
Marcia Weight Lyons
marciL.email@gmail.com

February 9, 2020

**Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee, Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`I 96813**

Bill Number: SB2796

**Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol**

I write in funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial support of SB2796

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the family of Margarete Lucie Georgine Buns Weber who was a patient that died on February 25, 1917 and is buried in Kalaupapa, Moloka`i. We assume because of her date of death that she is buried in the area where many of the markers were washed away by the tidal wave.

Kalaupapa is a place like no other. Once you visit there, you leave a different person. There are more than 8,000 stories of pain and sorrow by people of many different races and cultures who were forced to come together and as a result created their own culture.

A memorial honoring the people sent to Kalaupapa would not only help the families bring long awaited closure of their loved ones buried there but be a profound life experience to all those that visit. Kalaupapa has a story to tell and that story is a very important part of our history here in the Islands as well as around the world.

My great-grandmother's life and death in Kalaupapa was a huge mystery to my family, as was her young grandson "Willie Olsen" who died at the Leahi Hospital on Oahu. I learned of her from my father when I was a young child and as an adult, when I wrote to my family about her, I discovered that I was one of the two family members who knew of her illness and where she was laid to rest. What a shame that her family wasn't able to mourn her as she deserved, but that's the way it was for many of the patients at Kalaupapa in those days.

Like many of the Ohana O`Kalaupapa I anxiously await the day that I will have a place to lay my lei in honor of my great-grandmother who traveled as a young lady from Germany with dreams of raising her family in her new country which she loved and now called home.

Sincerely,

**Marilyn Puanani Janssen Cleghorn
P.O. Box 359,
Kula, HI 96790
(808)878-6170**

*Sister M. Davilyn Ah Chick, osf
Sisters of St. Francis ~ St. Clare Convent
91-1048 'A'awa Drive, Ewa Beach, HI 96706*

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature, Honolulu, HI 96813

Bill Number: SB2796 - To provide \$5 million for the construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial

Hearing: February 11, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Committee Members,

Aloha and the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and all the Saints!

I am Sister M. Davilyn Ah Chick, osf, a Sister of St. Francis, a Board Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, Chairperson of St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawai'i, and Principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. I am proud to be a Sister of St. Francis, because I belong to Saint Marianne Cope's religious community and able to serve our People of Hawai'i. In 1883, Mother Marianne Cope and six of my Sisters of St. Francis answered the plea of King Kalakaua and Queen Kapiolani to care for those afflicted by Hansen's disease. We are honored and happy to serve God and His People here in Hawai'i now for 137 years.

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bill 2796, because it will provide \$5 million for the construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial at Kalaupapa, Molokai. Our Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors has been working on this important project since the Kalaupapa residents asked us to establish such a Memorial. The Memorial will list the names of everyone sent there.

In 2009, the United States Congress passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by President Barack Obama authorizing Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish the Memorial. Since that time, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been involved in Federal and State compliance processes, assembled a strong Memorial Committee that produced a beautiful and meaningful design for the Memorial, compiled the names of nearly 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, and developed a fundraising strategy. The Kalaupapa Memorial will make certain that the names of the People of Kalaupapa will last for all eternity. It will also be a reconnection for descendants who will be able to find healing and at the same time, pride as they remember their loved ones and those who are part of the history of our beloved Hawai'i.

Thank you very much for making it possible for me to ask you for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial. All of you are reassured of my humble prayers. May God continue to bless you and all you do for God's people here in Hawai'i and beyond!

Gratefully and sincerely yours in Christ and St. Marianne Cope,

Sister M. Davilyn Ah Chick, osf
Board Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
sisterdavilyn@gmail.com
(808) 689-0474

*"God giveth life; He will take it away in His own good time.
Meanwhile it is our duty to make life as pleasant and as comfortable as possible
for those of our fellow-creatures whom He has chosen to afflict."*

Mother Marianne Cope – 1905



Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman, Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee

SB2796: Providing \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 3 p.m., Room 224

I write in strong SUPPORT of SB2796

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and members of the Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee,

As a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and now the Executive Director, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial. The Memorial will be a permanent reflection of the mission of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa: "E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau....To Honor and To Perpetuate."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was the vision of the late Kalaupapa leader Bernard Punikai'a. It was his idea to bring together family members, descendants and friends of Kalaupapa to make sure the voices of the residents would be heard long into the future. Our 'Ohana organized in 2003 when 70 people – Kalaupapa residents, family members and friends – gathered at Kalaupapa.

During that first meeting, Kalaupapa residents spoke about the importance of a Memorial. The US Congress supported our idea and passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act which authorizes Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish the Memorial and display the names of the estimated 8,000 people sent to Kalaupapa. This bill was signed by President Barack Obama. Since then, we have been completing federal and state compliance processes and we assembled a Design Team of professionals, cultural specialists and family members which produced a Conceptual Design of the Memorial that was enthusiastically approved by Kalaupapa residents and other important supporters. We have a team of professionals working on the final design and construction plans. We are nearing completion on compiling the list of names of everyone sent to Kalaupapa. With guidance from a consultant, we have prepared a Fundraising Strategy.

When we began in 2003, there were about 38 Kalaupapa residents living. Today, we have 12. Over the years, residents have signed petitions, written letters, provided testimony and attended meetings in support of The Kalaupapa Memorial. I am attaching two letters that were recently signed by residents asking for your support of this funding.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been recognized for our efforts in historic preservation five times by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, including our efforts to help families and descendants reconnect to their Kalaupapa ancestors. The Memorial will bring these families healing and pride – and will help reconnect future generations to their Kalaupapa kupuna, making sure that the people of Kalaupapa live on among us forever.

We humbly ask for your approval of SB2796 – and thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Monson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Valerie Monson, Executive Director
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

January 31, 2020

Chair Brian T. Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Labor, Culture and Arts Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Subject: Kalaupapa: SB2396 and SB 2370

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

We, the undersigned are residents of Kalaupapa, are very appreciative of the Senate introducing the two subject bills advanced by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, an organization made up of Kalaupapa residents, their extended family members and longtime friend of the Kalaupapa Community.

These are two important complimentary bills which will continue to build on and sustain the 'Ohana's efforts over many years to insure that the history and legacy of our people will be preserved for the benefit of future generations. Kalaupapa represents a special and unique chapter in our State's history and culture.

One of the major projects of our 'Ohana is the establishment of The Kalaupapa Memorial. The Memorial will list the names of all of the approximate 8,000 men, women and children who were forcibly separated from their families in Hawaii and sent to Kalaupapa. Currently there are less than 1,000 marked graves with names that can be identified. The Memorial will return all of these individuals to their rightful places in their family histories as well as the history of Kalaupapa and will provide a place of dignity where our family members can find healing and closure.

The Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu, who had family at Kalaupapa, sent a support letter in for the Kalaupapa Memorial. He wrote that the "Memorial would serve as a communal headstone so that all buried on the Peninsula, whether in marked or unmarked graves, could be remembered."

This is just one of many support letters sent in by stakeholders at Kalaupapa including individuals, organizations and State and County agencies.

The State Land Use Commission unanimously declared that the establishment of the Memorial would be an improvement to a site of "historic interest to the State."

Time is of the essence for this project as there are only 12 of us remaining – our ages range from 78 to 95. We are hopeful Memorial will be completed soon so as many of us as possible will be present at the unveiling.

We understand that your Committee is tasked with evaluating legislation related to programs related to our State's culture and arts, including programs related to historic preservation. Both of the subject bills relate directly to the preservation of our community's history and its cultural values.

At the request of the Kalaupapa community, the Kalaupapa 'Ohana was organized in 2003. Since that time, the organization has been awarded five historic preservation awards by Historic Hawai'i Foundation, including one that honored the 'Ohana's highly successful "Restoration of Family Ties" program. Through this program the 'Ohana has been able to connect over 800 family members with their ancestors who were sent to Kalaupapa.

We understand that both of the attached bills have been referred to your committee and the Senate's Finance Committee, and that the first important step is for your Committee to decide on whether or not to schedule a hearing for the two bills so they can be heard before sending them on to the Senate Finance Committee.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources has approved the project's final State environmental assessment, which includes the awarding the 'Ohana a 65-year lease in principle on the state-owned land where the Memorial will be located. The site is a neighboring property to historic St. Philomena Church, often called Damien's church, for Father – and Saint – Damien who graces the entrance to our State Capitol.

We again humbly request your support for these important bills.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

John Arredy
Pauline Chow
Winfred Harada

Monday, February 3, 2020

Senator Brian Taniguchi and Members of the LCA Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 And we are

Regarding: Senate Bill 2370 and Senate Bill 2796

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members:

This morning several of us, who are at Leahi Hospital, received a briefing on the two Senate bills mentioned above from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa ('Ohana) Executive Director Valerie Monson and 'Ohana Board Member DeGray Vanderbilt.

The briefing included a review of the attached letter to Chair Taniguchi dated January 31, 2020 signed by several residents who received a similar briefing at Kalaupapa on the Senate Bills and the process involved in moving them successfully through the legislature.

Those of us who have signed this letter below are fully supportive of the letter signed last Friday by those residents at Kalaupapa.

We would like to add that the five historic preservation awards the 'Ohana received from Hawaii Historic Foundation also included a short video entitled "Pride of a Nation", a tribute to those sent to Kalaupapa from all parts of our State. The video can be viewed at our updated website (kalaupapaohana.org).

As mentioned in the attached January 31 letter, another of the historic preservation awards honored the 'Ohana's highly successful, on-going "Restoration of Family Ties" program that has resulted in approximately 800 families being reconnected with their Kalaupapa ohana over the past several years. Attached is a recent newsletter, which shares additional information on this dynamic program.

Only 12 of us of the 8,000 Hawaii citizens sent to Kalaupapa remain. We are anxious to see the Memorial completed in time for us to participate in its unveiling ceremony. Having the Memorial completed and Kalaupapa Month in place will contribute significantly to our efforts over the years to insure that the legacy of our community is sustained in perpetuity. It is truly a unique chapter in our State's history and one future generations can learn so much from.

We are appreciative of Senator Kalani English introducing Senate Bills 2370 and 2796 for us. They are very important. And we respectfully request that your LCA Committee schedule a hearing for the bills so they can be heard and passed on to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which includes several members who have provided much support for us and our Kalaupapa community in the past.

Copies:

Senator J. Kalani English

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Clarence Kehelohiwa

Samuel Haskinoto
Dr. K. Kehelohiwa
Harold Galea
Gloria L. Stark

*Sister Alicia Damien Lau, osf
15 Bishop Home #0129
P.O. Box 129
Kalaupapa, HI 96742
February 10, 2020*

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796
Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts 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 I have spent 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 assisting as a volunteer and as a part-time employee of The Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. As a former board member of Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa, I listened to the Kalaupapa resident/patients express the desire to have a Memorial established at Kalaupapa which would list the names of everyone sent there.

The United States Congress passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, authorizing Ka `Ohana to establish the Memorial. Since that time, `Ohana has been involved in federal and state compliance processes, assembled a Memorial Committee that produced a beautiful and meaningful design for the Memorial, compiled the names of nearly 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, and developed a fundraising strategy.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will make certain that those who were sent to Kalaupapa, will be forever remembered and returned to the history of Kalaupapa and their family histories. The Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names.

I, and all the Sisters who had cared for them, ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

Sister Alicia Damien Lau, OSF
Sisters of St Francis of the Neumann Communities
adlau@sosf.org

SB-2796

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:13:56 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalei Dagulo	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Kalei Dagulo and I am a descendant of Lizzie Long my great-great-grand-aunt who was sent to Kalaupapa at the age of 12 years old. She does not have a tombstone along with many others that were sent to Kalaupapa and the memorial is a way to honor and remember them. The memorial will also provide closure for families that were separated so many years ago and provide a place for families to reconnect, reflect and remember those who lived at Kalaupapa.

I am also a Board member of Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa and I strongly support SB2796 which would provide \$5 million dollars to construct the memorial. Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Mahalo,

Kalei Dagulo

daguloohana@hawaii.rr.com

St. Elizabeth Convent
15 Bishop Home #129
P.O. Box 129
Kalaupapa, HI 96742

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796
Hearing: February 11, 2019, 3 p.m.
Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in support of SB2796, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Sister Barbara Jean Wajda, 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 for those Hawaiian people who were afflicted with the disease of leprosy. Mother Marianne Cope came to Kalaupapa on November 14, 1888 and our Franciscan Sisters have been here continuously since then.

I came to visit Kalaupapa around Christmas time in 2007 when I was first transferred to Hawaii. Over the course of the years since, I have learned of and experienced the rich and sacred history of this tiny spit of land which gave Hawaii and the world two saints. After a ten-year teaching ministry on the Big Island and in Oahu, I retired a second time from education ministry just prior to my 75th birthday. By that time I had spent times of reflection, retreat and service in Kalaupapa. I felt drawn to minister there in my retirement years, since I was and still am physically able to do the challenging tasks required of a full-time National Park Service volunteer. I have met and interacted with the patients who call this place home. In addition, as part of the NPS agreement, I give tours of St. Elizabeth [Bishop Home] Convent/Chapel and Mother Marianne's gravesite. People of all ages, ethnicities and religions are interested and inspired by the legacy of Mother Marianne and the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, NY, and by stories of the sufferings of the girls and young women and of those with advanced symptoms of the disease and the effects of separation. The most moving experiences are when young and old visitors come to seek out the history of their ancestors and locate their grave markers. Perhaps the most dramatic encounter we had involved a middle-aged man who, after returning to Oahu, found out from his adult cousin that they had a grandfather who lived here. He could hardly speak as he sobbed his discovery to us over the phone. Remembering the lives and stories of those thousands who lived and died here is the just payment of our debt of honor and gratitude to those who made this aina sacred by their presence here.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2796 which would provide \$5 million for construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. The United States Congress passed The Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by President Barack Obama in 2009, authorizing Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish the Memorial. Since that time, 'Ohana has been involved in federal and state compliance processes, assembled a Memorial Committee that produced a beautiful and meaningful design for the Memorial, compiled the names of nearly 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa, and developed a fundraising strategy.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will make certain that those who were sent to Kalaupapa, will be forever remembered and returned to the history of Kalaupapa and their family histories. The Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names.

I, and all the Sisters who had cared for them, ask for your support of SB2796 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

Sister Barbara Jean Wajda, osf
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
bjwajda@gmail.com

**Testimony of Pi`olani Motta
Maluhia Home**

**In Support of Senate Bill 2796, Relating to the Kalaupapa Memorial
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts**

**Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is offered on behalf of Pi`olani Motta, in strong support of SB 2796, which authorizes \$5,000,000 for the design, plan and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

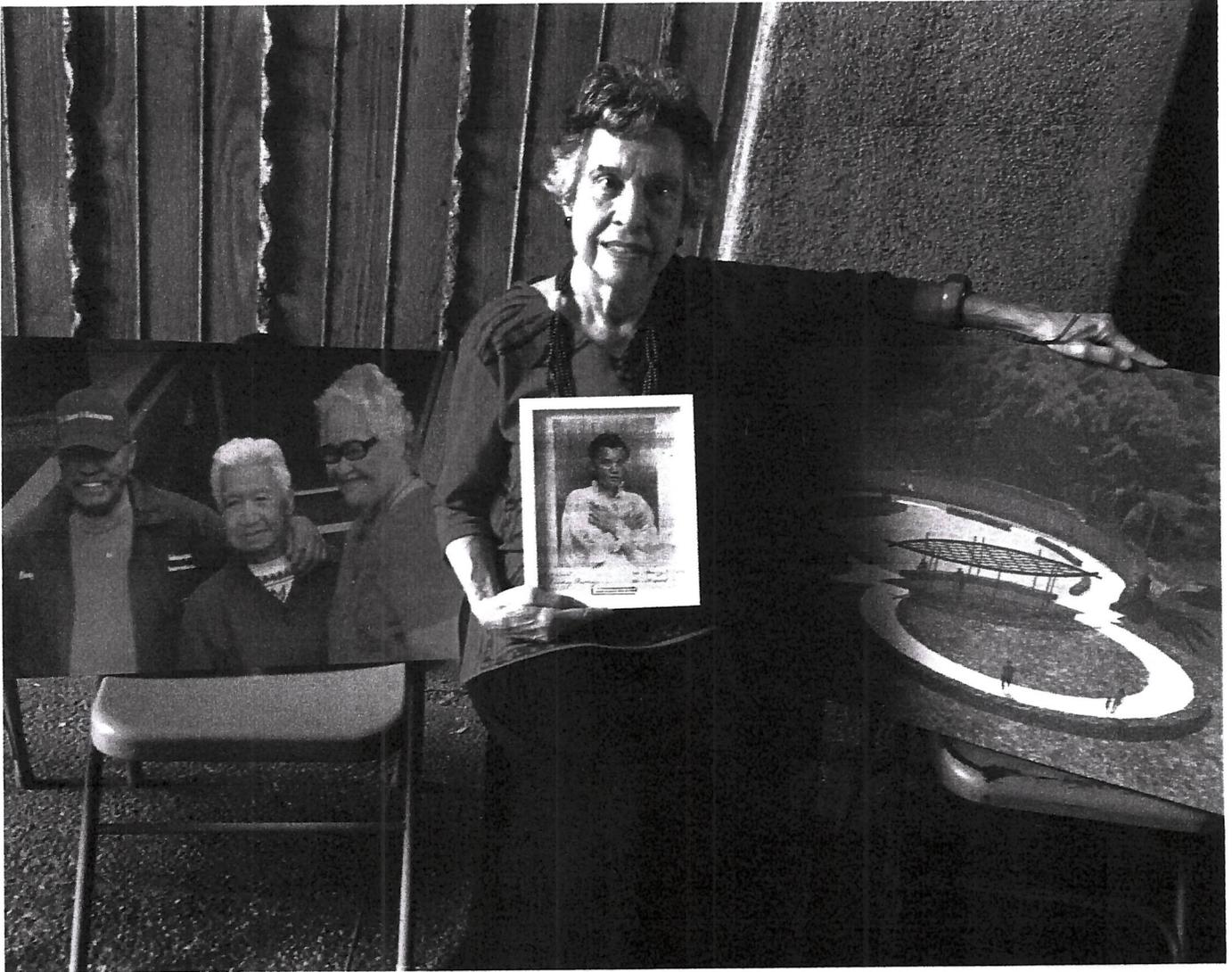
Aunty Pi`o is a beloved kupuna who is now in Hospice Care in Maluhia Home and cannot be here in person. She is a Founding Member of Ka `Ohana o Kalaupapa and the Kalaupapa Memorial Committee and has championed this project for over a decade. On behalf of her, her ancestors and her `ohana, we offer her support, as articulated through the many testimonies that she has made, to the U.S. Congress and to the DLNR Land Board.

Aunty Pi`olani's grandmother, Becky Perry, was sent to Kalaupapa, from Awini, in 1898, as a 14 year old child. Her daughter, Rose Alana Perry Huleia, was born at Kalaupapa and taken away at birth, to be raised by the Sisters of Charity at Kapi`olani Home. Her grandparents remain in unmarked graves on the peninsula. She carries the first name, Gertrude, in honor of "Mother Gertrude," of the Kapi`olani Home, for her kindness, gentleness and loving ways.

In her most recent appearance before the Land Board, Aunty Pi`olani said this: "I am a direct descendant of six family members buried somewhere in Kalaupapa. My grandmother was 14 from the Awini Mountains of Kohala from a family of eleven children. She was number 3 in line. Where in the world would you find somebody in Awini way in Kohala, one of eleven children, to be picked to come here to Kalaupapa?

But because there was no record of where they were buried or when they died, this Monument will be my only contact with my ohana just as it would be for countless others in my situation. My standing commitment is to see that the 8,000 residents are never forgotten. We must listen to our voices. They needed to be heard and they must know that someone cares."

Aunty Pi`o's last wish, before she departs this life, is to know that the Memorial will be built. Mahalo for helping to make her wish come true.







**TESTIMONY OF PIOLANI MOTTA, CO-CHAIR OF THE MONUMENT
COMMITTEE, KA 'OHANA O KALAUPAPA, BEFORE THE HOUSE OF
RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS ON H.R. 4529,
THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT**

“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, 90, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1937 and is the author of the book, “Olivia: My Life of Exile in Kalaupapa.”

Aloha Mr. Chairman, Representative Steve Pearce, Representative Donna M. Christensen and to members of the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks with a special aloha to Hawaii Representative Neil Abercrombie.

From 1866 to 1969, an estimated 8,000 people from all over Hawaii were taken from their families and forcibly isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula, not because they had committed a crime, but because they were diagnosed with a disease; leprosy. At a time when they needed love, medical attention and support from their family, friends and community more than ever, those affected by the disease – men, women and children – were sent away to make a new life for themselves under the most difficult of circumstances. Hawaii’s isolation laws regarding people with leprosy were not abolished until 1969 – nearly 25 years after medicine had been introduced.

The overriding justification for such drastic measures was said to be the protection of society at large. Even after the discovery of medicine to control the disease, new patients were still separated from their families because of society’s fear, misconceptions and prejudice. The 8,000 people sent to Kalawao and Kalaupapa were denied their freedom and the opportunity to lead normal lives (they were not even allowed to raise their children) simply for the peace of mind of the general public. At least 90 percent of those isolated on the peninsula were Kanaka Maoli, or Native Hawaiian.

Despite the overwhelming odds they faced, many of the people of Kalaupapa went on to live remarkable lives and their contributions to society have been recognized in Hawaii, nationally and around the world.

Most of the 8,000 people relocated to Kalaupapa died on the peninsula and were buried there, but a vast majority of those graves can not be found. The National Park Service staff of Kalaupapa National Historical Park, established by Congress and signed into law in 1980, has been able to record less than 1,300 graves – and many of those are no longer marked. Family members searching for the graves of loved ones go away brokenhearted and frustrated that there seems to be no evidence of the existence of their ancestor or ancestors.

Because Hawaii kept complete records of those sent to Kalawao and Kalaupapa, it would be possible to list the name of every individual on the monument, providing a sense of pride and closure to family members in search of their loved ones. A memorial with the names of everyone sent to Kalaupapa would provide visitors with a deep sense of the magnitude of the sacrifices made by those sent to the peninsula and their families who were left behind.

It is believed that this would be the first monument of its kind anywhere in the world that would honor individuals who had leprosy in this way and, considering Kalaupapa's significant history, it is fitting that this unique memorial be established at Kalaupapa National Historical Park.

The idea of a monument to honor and perpetuate the memories of the people of Kalaupapa is not a new one, but only in the last few years has a grassroots movement taken shape and gained momentum. The recent effort was started by Piolani Motta, who has been unable to find the grave of her grandmother, and who feels strongly that everyone isolated at Kalaupapa and Kalawao should be recognized as individuals. Piolani's proposal was welcomed by the Kalaupapa community and became a priority of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, when the group was formed in 2003.

Because of the nature of the way the records were kept and to ensure flexibility in the design of the project, the memorial has been proposed to be built in two parts: the first part would contain the names of the first 5,000 people sent to the Kalaupapa peninsula, most of whom lived at the original settlement at Kalawao; the second part would contain the names of approximately 3,000 individuals, most of whom lived on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula. Because record keeping became more complicated after 1900, additional time will be needed to accurately compile the list of the last 3,000 individuals. The first 5,000 names are easily accessible.

The 'Ohana is dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of each individual who was exiled to the peninsula beginning in 1866. 'Ohana members include the people of Kalaupapa, family members, friends, state officials, interested citizens and others who have a longtime interest in the future of Kalaupapa and her residents. With the population of Kalaupapa decreasing, it was deemed of vital importance to bring together people who would support and help do what is necessary to ensure that the remaining members of the Kalaupapa community be able to live out their lives in this, their home and have the assurance that their history will be preserved and passed down for the education and inspiration of present and future generations.

The mission of the 'Ohana is: "E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau... To Honor and To Perpetuate." We work in cooperation with the Kalaupapa community, the Hawaii State Department of Health, the National Park Service and other agencies to promote the dignity and rights of the people of Kalaupapa and the legacy of the 8,000 people sent there. In a short time, we have demonstrated our ability to develop partnerships and coordinate worthy endeavors, such as restoring dialysis to Kalaupapa so that anyone needing those services could remain at home and not have to be relocated again.

The 'Ohana welcomes the opportunity to establish a monument to the people of Kalaupapa. We thank Congressman Ed Case for introducing this bill and to Congressman Neil Abercrombie for serving as co-sponsor. We also know we can count on support from our Hawaii Senators, Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, who have made many visits to Kalaupapa.

More than 25 years ago, Congress recognized the national and international significance of the history and legacy of Kalaupapa when it authorized the creation of Kalaupapa National Historical Park. The park's most valuable resource is – and will always be – the people whose extraordinary lives continue to inspire and educate people from Hawaii, the nation and around the world. A monument honoring the people is a fitting tribute to them – and to their family members who carry on their legacy.

We hope this House subcommittee will support our efforts and we look forward to this bill moving ahead in Congress.

Mahalo (thank you) for this opportunity.

Pio testimony at 24:26 minute mark of official tape recording of February 23, 2020 meeting at which the Land Board unanimously approved the state's Chapter 343 environmental review process.

Good morning. My name is Piolani Motta. I am 89 years of age. I have been associated with this associate Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa since its beginning in 2003. The original goal of the association formed by several residents who have since passed away was build a Memorial honoring those who were afflicted with the disease and sent to Kalawao.

The families of these original founders, as well as our surviving Hansen's disease patients, have since come together to meet the demands of both the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National park Service for the building of this Memorial. After 12 years are we going to be met with another roadblocks?

If there are other demands or required information needed, our association is willing to listen and to do what ever is needed to get this Memorial long overdue to be built.

I am a direct descendant of six family members buried somewhere in Kalaupapa. My grandmother was 14 from the Awini Mountains of Kohala from a family of eleven children. She was number 3 in line. Where in the world would you find somebody in Awini way in Kohala, one of eleven children, to be picked to come here to Kalaupapa?

But because there was no record of where they were buried or when they died, this Monument will be my only contact with my ohana just as it would be for countless others in my situation. My standing commitment is to see that the 8,000 residents are never forgotten. We must listen to our voices. They needed to be heard and they must know that someone cares.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you.

Kehau:

Just for you information the following is from the summary minutes transcribed from the Land Board's official tape recording of its Feb 23 meeting:

Piolani Motta, 89 years young read her written testimony. The original founders and surviving Hansen's Disease patients are will to do whatever needs to be done to have the memorial built. She is a direct descendent of six family members buried somewhere in Kalawao and Kalaupapa, because there isno record of where they are buried or when they died , this monument would be her only contact with her ohana, just like countless others in her situation. Her stand and commitment is to see that the 8,000-plus residents are

never forgotten. They need to be heard and they must know that someone cared.

**TESTIMONY OF PIOLANI MOTTA, CO-CHAIR OF THE MONUMENT
COMMITTEE, KA 'OHANA O KALAUPAPA, BEFORE THE HOUSE OF
RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS ON H.R. 4529,
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had committed a crime, but because they were diagnosed with a disease; leprosy. At a time when they needed love, medical attention and support from their family, friends and community more than ever, those affected by the disease – men, women and children – were sent away to make a new life for themselves under the most difficult of circumstances. Hawaii's isolation laws regarding people with leprosy were not abolished until 1969 – nearly 25 years after medicine had been introduced.

The overriding justification for such drastic measures was said to be the protection of society at large. Even after the discovery of medicine to control the disease, new patients were still separated from their families because of society's fear, misconceptions and prejudice. The 8,000 people sent to Kalawao and Kalaupapa were denied their freedom and the opportunity to lead normal lives (they were not even allowed to raise their children) simply for the peace of mind of the general public. At least 90 percent of those isolated on the peninsula were Kanaka Maoli, or Native Hawaiian.

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Because Hawaii kept complete records of those sent to Kalawao and Kalaupapa, it would be possible to list the name of every individual on the monument, providing a sense of pride and closure to family members in search of their loved ones. A memorial with the names of everyone sent to Kalaupapa would provide visitors with a deep sense of the magnitude of the sacrifices made by those sent to the peninsula and their families who were left behind.

It is believed that this would be the first monument of its kind anywhere in the world that would honor individuals who had leprosy in this way and, considering Kalaupapa's significant history, it is fitting that this unique memorial be established at Kalaupapa National Historical Park.

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Kalaupapa community and became a priority of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, when the group was formed in 2003.

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We hope this House subcommittee will support our efforts and we look forward to this bill moving ahead in Congress.

Mahalo (thank you) for this opportunity.