

SB3136

Measure Title:

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR A MONUMENT TO BE PLACED IN KALAWAO COUNTY RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO WERE SENT TO KALAUPAPA WITH HANSEN'S DISEASE.

Report Title:

Kalaupapa; Kalawao County; Monument; Appropriation (\$)

Description:

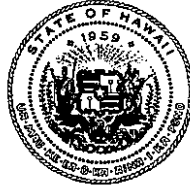
Makes an appropriation to the department of health for a monument to be placed in Kalawao county recognizing those who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's disease.

Introducer(s):

HANABUSA

Current Referral:

HTH, WAM



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB3136, Making Appropriation to the Department of Health for a Monument to be Placed in Kalawao County Recognizing Those Who Were Sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's Disease

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

February 13, 2008, 1:15 P.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this measure and offers an
2 explanation as to why it does not support this measure in its current form.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$100,000 to the Department of Health for a monument to be placed in Kalawao
4 County.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health does not support the mechanism for
6 implementation of this bill as described because it ignores the fact that the Kalaupapa settlement is also
7 a Historic National Park under the National Park Service (NPS). The Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa
8 (a Kalaupapa patient advocacy group) has been working with the NPS to erect a monument within the
9 criteria required by the NPS's policies and procedures. House Resolution 4529 was introduced in the 1st
10 session of the 109th Congress by then Representative Ed Case to establish a Kalaupapa patient memorial
11 under the auspices of the Secretary of the Interior. Although it was not heard on the floor last year, it
12 was reintroduced August 2, 2007, by Representative Mazie Hirono in the 1st session of the 110th
13 Congress, and will also be reintroduced yet again during the 2nd session.

14 The federal bill stipulates that a patient memorial would be subject to the approval of the
15 Secretary of the Interior according to size, design, and inscription as detailed in subsection (a) of the bill.

1 This insures that the agency (in this case the NPS) with the most experience and expertise would be
2 responsible for overseeing the erection of the memorial. The arrangement would also allow for the
3 monument to be maintained adequately and appropriately by the NPS once it is erected (rather than the
4 DOH which will have a limited presence once the patients are gone).

5 The appropriation of \$100,000 may not adequately cover the total cost to erect an appropriate
6 memorial which may actually run into the millions of dollars. The Department has not seen any studies
7 or reports on appropriate designs or cost for erecting a Kalaupapa patient memorial.

8 In the introduction of the Kalaupapa Memorial Act given by Representative Mazie Hirono to the
9 House of Representative on August 2, 2007, she stated that “the Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has made a
10 commitment to raise the funds needed to design and build the memorial and will work with the National
11 Park Service on design and location of the memorial.” If this is true, then this bill would be redundant
12 and may actually hinder the ground work that has already been accomplished by the Ka Ohana O
13 Kalaupapa and the National Park Service by putting the funding and erection of the patient memorial on
14 the State.

15 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

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

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator David Ige, chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, vice chair

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Capitol Room 16

RE: SB 3136

Testimony of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a nonprofit organization made up of Kalaupapa patients, their family members, descendents of anyone who was sent to Kalaupapa, longtime friends, officials and others. Since the 'Ohana was established in 2003, one of the priorities has been to establish a Monument on the Kalaupapa peninsula that would honor the estimated 8,000 people who were taken from their families and forcibly isolated there because of society's fear of leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease).

The 'Ohana supports SB 3136 that would appropriate \$100,000 toward the creation of a Monument at Kalaupapa, but we request that the Health Committee make it clear that the appropriation for the Monument would not come from the Department of Health's budget or the Kalaupapa community budget. The 'Ohana does not want to cause any financial hardships on the Department or, especially, the Kalaupapa community.

A Monument at Kalaupapa has been talked about for the past 20 years, but it wasn't until Piolani Motta met with the community several years ago that a concerted effort began. Ms. Motta was unable to find the grave of her grandmother who died at Kalaupapa -- and she wanted to make sure her

grandmother was not forgotten. The 'Ohana has been working with Congress, the National Park Service and the State Department of Health to make the Monument a reality.

Although an estimated 8,000 people were isolated at Kalaupapa from 1866 to 1969, only about 1,300 graves have been identified. That means nearly 6,700 people have no marked graves – their families can find no place to find closure and say their prayers. It's heartbreaking to walk through the cemeteries of Kalaupapa with family members desperate to find a tangible link to their past, but to find nothing. The 'Ohana hopes that the Monument could provide a fitting place of comfort for these family members and descendants while honoring the thousands of people who sacrificed their freedoms so others would not contract the disease.

Just yesterday, Feb. 12, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress passed a bill that would enable the Department of the Interior to authorize the 'Ohana to create the Monument. Representative Mazie Hirono introduced the bill with Representative Neil Abercrombie as co-sponsor. Senator Daniel Akaka has introduced a companion bill in the Senate with Senator Daniel Inouye as co-sponsor.

The Monument would be built in two phases. The first section would include the names of the first 5,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa – these were individuals sent to Kalaupapa from 1866 to 1896. Their names are all in the public domain and are on file for anyone to read at the Hawaii State Archives, thanks to the Department of Health, which had the wisdom and foresight to donate this historic journal to the people of Hawaii. The second phase of the Monument would be built later when names become available to the public record. The 'Ohana has said from the beginning that any Kalaupapa resident still living who does not want their name on the Monument at the time that it is being designed will have those wishes honored. A blank space will be left to honor that individual.

In late 2006, to prepare for a House sub-committee hearing in Washington, the 'Ohana gathered signatures, statements of support for the Monument and letters of support. At the time, there were 33 people listed on the Department of Health's Kalaupapa registry. The 'Ohana obtained signatures of support on a petition and/or statements of support for the Monument from 29 individuals – two people could not be contacted and two others were ill. In fact, the 'Ohana ended up with more signatures than there were residents at

Kalaupapa: some people signed for family members who had already died and were buried at Kalaupapa, some of them in graves that were no longer marked.

In addition, the 'Ohana received letters of support for the Monument from Governor Lingle Lingle; Micah Kane, chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homeland; Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chair Haunani Apoliona; The Rev. Larry Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu; The Rev. Charles Buck, Hawaii Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ; the Pu'a Foundation 'Ohana and many family members and friends. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs passed a resolution in support of the Monument and last August at the Conference for Native Hawaiian Advancement, 'Ohana President Kuulei Bell received a standing ovation from the crowd for her presentation about the proposed Monument. It was at this event that Senator Colleen Hanabusa pledged her support.

We have copies of all these petitions, statements of support and letters of support along with other information that we would be happy to share upon request.

Last summer, the 'Ohana raised \$10,000 to compile the list of the names of the first 5,000 people sent to Kalaupapa, using the register at the State Archives. That preliminary list is being double-checked so we can be as accurate as possible. When completed, the list will serve as the foundation for the first phase of the Monument and be made available to people who want to check if they had family at Kalaupapa. This database would be very similar to what is available at Ellis Island.

The 'Ohana thanks Senator Hanabusa for introducing this bill that would appropriate \$100,000 toward the Monument. The 'Ohana has agreed to be responsible for raising all the funds needed. An appropriation from the State would be most welcome. However, we would not support any appropriations that would come directly from the Department of Health's budget or the budget for Kalaupapa.

Because the 'Ohana realizes that the Department of Health already has a full load of responsibilities, we would ask the Health Committee to revise the language so that the Department would funnel the money to the 'Ohana on a contractual basis. The 'Ohana will then be fully responsible for all the work.

We also want to point out that a Monument listing the names of those isolated because of leprosy is not a new concept. 'Ohana members have seen Monuments listing names in Korea and Japan. A Monument listing the names of the early residents of the National Leprosarium at Carville, La., stands in the middle of the complex – a graveyard with tombstones listing names is nearby. Western Australia is in the process of developing a Monument listing the names of those impacted by isolation laws. Norway received an honor from a United Nations committee for compiling the list of 8,000 people who were separated from their families because of leprosy.

We believe the people of Kalaupapa – all 8,000 – and their families deserve the same kind of tribute.

We close with the words of Bernard Punikai`a, who was sent to Kalaupapa as a boy in 1942 and who serves as the Honorary Chairman of the 'Ohana Board of Directors. The Ohana was the idea of Mr. Punikai`a. When asked about the importance of the Monument that would list the names of everyone sent to Kalaupapa, Mr. Punikai`a, said:

“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.”

Let's return the people of Kalaupapa to their rightful place in Hawaii's history and to their family histories. Let us remember their names.

testimony

From: Charles Buck [cbuck@hcucc.org]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 2:16 PM
To: testimony
Cc: valerie monson; Charles Buck
Subject: SB 3136

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 13
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Capitol Room 16

Re: SB 3136

From: Charles C. Buck, Conference Minister, Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ.

Dear Senators Ige, Fukunaga, and Senate Health Committee Members:

I support SB 3136.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) and its predecessor denominations have been active and present on the Kalaupapa peninsula from the beginning of the forced relocation of Hansen's disease patients through the Siloama (Kalawao) and Kana'ana Hou (Kalaupapa) churches, which have merged over time to become what is known today as the Kana'ana Hou-Siloama United Church of Christ.

The UCC is also active as a supporting member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, consisting of patients and their families and friends, which advocates for the needs and rights of the patients and works closely and cooperatively with the National Parks Service and State of Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

With the numbers of patients at Kalaupapa declining, our own members at Kana'ana Hou-Siloama along with the members of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa have become increasingly concerned about the future. In particular, will the memories and histories of the thousands of patients survive after the last one has died? How will the tales of injustice, as well as stories of courage and survival, be shared that they may teach and inspire future generations?

Together we are addressing these questions, but we are convinced that a memorial of some kind would be a positive and encouraging step toward honoring the dignity and perpetuating the legacy of all those who lived in this special place at a unique time in U.S. and Hawai'i history.

Support for such a memorial is broad-based, but most importantly the idea was conceived by and receives overwhelming support from the patients themselves. The UCC believes strongly that those most likely to be silent or silenced are the ones whose voices we as a society most need to hear. For this reason, I urge you to hear the wishes of the patients and to give due consideration to support of the establishment of a memorial.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Buck
Conference Minister
Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ
1848 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

2/11/2008

HPACH
919 4th Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

February 13, 2008

Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair
And Committee Members, Committee On Health
The Senate, The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008, State of Hawaii

Subject: SB 3136 Making An Appropriation To The Department Of Health
For A Monument To Be Placed In Kalawao County Recognizing
Those Who Were Sent To Kalaupapa With Hansen's Disease, SUPPORT

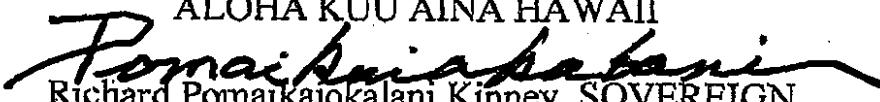
ALOHA Kakou,

My name is Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney. As Sovereign of the
Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii, I SUPPORT the passage of
SB 3136.

The history of Kalaupapa is that of a human tragedy. Beginning with
Hansen Disease being introduced to Hawaii. The native indigenous Hawaiian
people of Hawaiian Kingdom nation were its greatest victim. I'm told that out
of the caring for the first victims of Hansen Disease, Hawaiians fell victims.

I Strongly Support that all of the names of everyone who were sent to
Kalaupapa be placed on the Memorial Monument. I strongly encourage the
input from as many residents and former residents of Kalaupapa on the design
of the Memorial Monument. I believe that this Memorial to all who were sent
to Kalaupapa is long over due.

Once more, HPACH Supports the passage of SB 3136. Mahalo Nui for the
opportunity to present testimony of this Bill.

ALOHA KUU AINA HAWAII

Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney, SOVEREIGN
Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii
Email: HIAHAWAII@aol.com

February 11, 2008

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Senator David Ige, chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, vice chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb. 13
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Capitol Room 16

Re: SB 3136

From: Donald W. Reeser

In memory of my late wife, Henrietta Weber Reeser, I strongly support SB 3136 which will provide funding to assist in the establishment of a memorial at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, Hawai'i. She served on the Monument Committee of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa at the time of her death in July 2007.

Her great-grandmother, Rosine Weber, was forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa in 1911 and died there in 1917. Many of the grave markers of the Hansen disease victims have either deteriorated or were destroyed by a tsunami. In any case, except for a few documents preserved by the Hawai'i Department of Health, there is no longer any on-site evidence that she ever resided and was buried there. SB 3136 will help establish an appropriate memorial to honor and perpetuate the memory of Rosine Weber and others, dishonored and separated from their families, who died in Kalaupapa.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donald W. Reeser
1445 Pi'iholo Road
Makawao, HI 96768
808-572-2331

February 11, 2008

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Senator David Ige, chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, vice chair

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 13
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Capitol Room 16

Re: SB 3136

From: Chris and David Mahelona

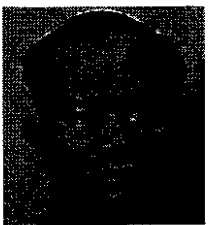
Aloha mai e Kenekoa Ige a me Kenekoa Fukunaga,

I am writing today, on behalf of myself and my father, in support of SB 3136

"MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR A MONUMENT TO BE PLACED IN KALAWAO COUNTY RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO WERE SENT TO KALAUPAPA WITH HANSEN'S DISEASE."

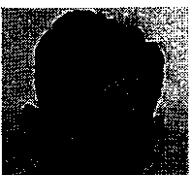
Up until 1969 when the isolation law was abolished, the isolation policy for Hansen's disease (leprosy) patients resulted in a major disruption of family life where children were taken from their parents, parents taken from their children and husbands and wives were separated regardless of their vows "for better or for worse, in sickness and in health". As a result of this inequitable severance, this disease was named rightfully so: "Ma'i Ho'oka'awale" - The Separating Sickness.

We have many members of our family who had Hansen's disease including my grandfather, his brother and their father.

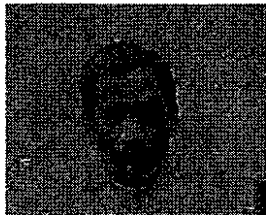


My grandfather, David Keli'ikaina Mahelona, was a successful native Hawaiian businessman in Nānākuli, Hawai'i where he built the Homestead Theater and Nānākuli Store in the 1930s. David was also the postmaster in Nānākuli as well as an 'ukulele builder. After being diagnosed with Hansen's disease in 1947, he was deported to Kalaupapa. Following the development of Sulfone drugs for treatment of the disease in 1949, patients were allowed to leave Kalaupapa to be closer to friends and family. My grandfather chose to move to the Hale Mohalu hospital in Pearl City. After my grandfather contracted the disease, his wife Rebecca, was left to raise 4 kids and run the family businesses on her own.

I remember as a child, that when visiting him at the hospital, I could only see him through a fence as the rules did not allow for physical contact. I didn't understand, I thought I was supposed to be able to sit on my grandfather's lap, have him tell me stories and feed me candy. That would not be the case and my relationship with my grandfather left much to be desired.



His brother, Jonah Kinilaulehua Napela Mahelona, was sent to Kalaupapa in 1933 and stayed until the early 1950s. Jonah was the sheriff at Kalaupapa as well as a LDS church leader. Jonah was taken away from his wife and 5 kids and had worked for the Kahului railroad before he was deported.



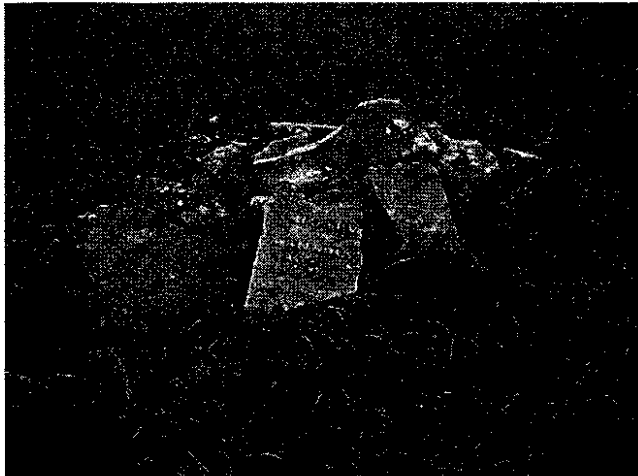
My great grandfather, Stephen Mahelona Napela was at Kalaupapa from 1905 to 1912. Not only was Stephen unwillingly physically separated from his wife and 4 kids, Stephen's wife eventually divorced him and remarried because of the disease. Hansen's disease was grounds for divorce back then.

Stephen is shown below with a group of his fellow patients and Brother Dutton in 1905.



Unlike my grandfather and his brother, who are buried in Pearl City, my great grandfather is buried somewhere on the Kalaupapa peninsula. My father and I have been to Kalaupapa 4 times looking for Stephen's grave, but so far have come up empty-handed.

To date, we have identified 38 people, who we think are 'ohana, who were banished to Kalaupapa through no choice of their own. We found this information through extensive research at the Hawai'i state archives in the Kalaupapa / Kalawao Record of Inmates and Persons Apprehended & Examined, as well as Patient Records, census documents and death certificates. We know of fourteen of them who buried there. We have yet to find any of their graves either.



The National Park Service has been able to identify 1,300 people through the names listed on headstones. Many of the existing headstones like this one, are in poor condition and will soon be lost forever to time.

The other 6,700 people buried on the Kalaupapa peninsula, were not fortunate enough to have a headstone and if they did at one point in time, it is gone now. The only way anyone would know they were even buried there, would be to search for clues like we did.

Most gravesites look like this barren field overgrown with trees. This field is actually the Kahaloko Cemetery which was used to bury hundreds, if not thousands, of Hansen's patients between 1887 and 1920. As my grandfather Stephen died there in 1912, he may very well be buried here, although we will probably never find out where. We left flowers for Stephen's grave by one of these trees as we had no other place to leave them.



Historical records suggest that this field next to Father Damien's church in Kalawao is the final resting place for thousands of former patients.



The naming process and the giving of a Hawaiian name is an important and sacred component of traditional Hawaiian culture. It is said names carry significant mana (spiritual power) and they are actually a part of the person, just like an arm or a leg. In ancient Hawai'i, a person's name was one of his most precious possessions unique to the individual and most times, related to an event, an ancestor, or a personality trait. In every case, the kupuna (elders) are always consulted. It was the

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

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

Bernard K. Punikai`a, 76 (sent to Kalaupapa in 1942)

The Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of every individual who was separated from their families and isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula. One of the goals of the 'Ohana, is to construct a Memorial with the names of the 8,000 people buried on the Peninsula. These unfortunate souls weren't just patients or inmates, they like my family, were human beings, with families that loved them, friends that socialized with them, jobs they went to daily and contributors to society. A Memorial to recognize all who were sent to Kalaupapa would be a great tribute to them.

It is Important to remember that we as a society learn from our past mistakes in the way we treat our fellow human beings. We don't always need to treat those that need caring and compassion as outcasts because of our own fear and misunderstanding. We believe the Kalaupapa Memorial will help us remember those who had the **Ma'i Ho'oka'awale**.

My father and I urge members of the Senate Health Committee to support SB 3136. The Memorial would be the second best place for us to leave flowers for Stephen and the rest of our family buried on the Kalaupapa Peninsula. Unfortunately the best place will never be found.

Mahalo nui loa.

Chris Mahelona

Chris Mahelona
PO Box 179
Valleyford, WA 99036
509-993-1608
cmahel55@air-pipe.com

David Mahelona

David Mahelona
10809 E 31st Ave
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encl.

Mahelona Relatives Sent to Kalaupapa Peninsula

Grave Name	Record or Patient Number	Deported to Kalaupapa	Burial Site	Located
Hawaolani Hart			Kalaupapa	No
Kahue			unknown	
Kahue			unknown	
Moses Kaulahea	156		Kalaupapa	No
Daniela Kupanihi			unknown	
Mahoe Lilla	4230	1891	unknown	
Lono			unknown	
Emma Lono	4953	1893	unknown	
Emma Lono	3026	1931	Kalaupapa	No
John Lono	5018	1891	Kalaupapa	No
Ku Lono	1032	1932	unknown	
Maggie Lono	638	1905	unknown	
Napela	1137	1891	Kalaupapa	No
Jonathan Napela	1807	1878	Kalaupapa	No
Kitty Napela	901,905	1873	Kalaupapa	No
Lono Napela	769	1873	unknown	
Maka Napela	3	1898	Kalaupapa	No
Napela-Limaloa		1889	Discharged	
S.M. Napela	487	1905	Kalaupapa	No
William Napela	1922	1894	Kalaupapa	No
Mahelona	3833	1889	unknown	
Mahelona	6	1887	unknown	
Mahelona	594		unknown	
Mahelona	595		unknown	
Mahelona	334		unknown	
Mahelona			Kalaupapa	No
David Mahelona	3664	1947	Pearl City	Yes
Jonah Mahelona	3228	1933	Pearl City	Yes
Mahoe		1881	unknown	
Mahoe		1876	unknown	
Mahoe		1883	unknown	
Mahoe		1888	unknown	
Edward Mahoe		1914	Kalaupapa	No
Joel Mahoe		1909	Kalaupapa	No
Leander Tilton	1104	1912	unknown	
Peter Mahoe Waia			Kalaupapa	No
John Wallace	1011		Paroled	

Friday, February 13, 2008
State Capitol – Room 016
1:15 PM

TESTIMONY: **SB 3136**
Making an appropriation to the Department of Health for a monument to be placed in Kalawao County recognizing those who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's Disease

To: Committee on Health
 Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
 Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair

From: Bernard K. Punikai'a

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

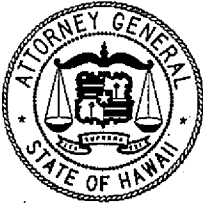
I wish to express to you today my strong support for **Senate Bill 3136**, appropriating funds for a monument which would recognize thousands of individuals—many of them long forgotten—who have been sent to Kalaupapa over several generations. These men, women and children not only suffered the physical and social effects of Hansen's Disease, but also the pain of enforced separation from family and friends. Their lives and contributions—no less than those of our beloved Father Damien and Mother Marianne, known and celebrated for their dedication to the people of Kalaupapa—deserve to be memorialized for posterity.

Diagnosed with Hansen's Disease at the age of six, I was taken from my family and isolated at Kalihi Hospital. When I was eleven, I was sent with other children to Kalaupapa, where I lived for many years, until moving to Hale Mohalu in Pearl City. I am presently staying at Leahi Hospital in Kaimuki, but maintain a residence in Kalaupapa, to which I hope to return one day.

My support for this bill does not come from any deep urge to see my own name carved in stone. Along with my contemporaries in Kalaupapa and elsewhere in the community, I have been fortunate to receive considerable recognition and generous support from friends and neighbors everywhere. Those that preceded us were not as fortunate. It is their names and memories that I look forward to seeing on the proposed monument. It is their names that will be part of the historical record left for future generations.

While the public funding requested by the bill is needed and welcomed, we residents of Kalaupapa—along with our friends and supporters—wish to do our part as private citizens. I have already made a monetary pledge and urge others to do the same.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my testimony.



**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 3136, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR A MONUMENT TO BE PLACED IN KALAWAO COUNTY RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO WERE SENT TO KALAUAPAPA WITH HANSEN'S DISEASE.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 **TIME:** 1:15 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

Deliver to: State Capitol, Room 215, 1 copy

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
or Susan R. Kern, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General opposes this bill in its current form.

This bill appropriates \$100,000 for a monument to recognize those who were sent to Kalauapapa with Hansen's disease. The Attorney General has the following concerns with this bill:

First of all, this bill would create problems with an already existing agreement between the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Park Service (NPS). That agreement provides that the NPS is to operate, preserve, and protect the Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and the DOH is to continue healthcare programs for Hansen's disease patients residing in the Kalaupapa Settlement. This bill would place the DOH in the position of the NPS in erecting and managing the construction and maintenance of the memorial.

Secondly, U.S. Representatives Mazie Hirono and Neil Abercrombie introduced a bill (H.R. 3332), which was passed by the House of Representatives yesterday, which provides a more appropriate vehicle to establish a memorial within Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and which would authorize the patient advocacy group Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish a memorial at locations approved by the Secretary of

Interior, with the size, design, and inscriptions to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The bill also provides that Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to be solely responsible for the collections and payment of the expenses associated with the memorial.

If the Legislature wishes to provide funding for a Kalaupapa memorial, in order to avoid hampering the efforts of Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa or jeopardizing the passage of the bill in the Senate, the Legislature may consider making a grant to the patient advocacy group Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa under chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Senator David Ige, Chair Committee on Health

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
1:15 p.m., Conference room 016

In Support of SB 3136 Making an Appropriation to the Department of Health for a Monument to be Placed in Kalawao County Recognizing Those Who Were Sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's Disease

Chair Ige and members of the committee:

I am Cynthia K.L. Rezentes and I am in support of SB 3136.

This year I had the honor to spend a weekend at Kalaupapa for the first time. It was an unforgettable experience. The raw, wild beauty of the peninsula was breath-taking but also brought to mind the extreme challenges the people sent there faced as they were isolated from family and friends.

Over 8000 people were sent there from 1866 to 1969 because they had *Ma`i Ho`oka`awale* (the separating sickness, i.e. Hansen's disease or leprosy). Families were torn apart, family members sent to the peninsula were denied to have existed because of the perceived shame it brought to the family, fewer still went to Kalawao to help those with the disease through their illness. And yet, the patients overcame these trials and tribulations to form a tight-knit community and survive.

It is to this memory that I support a monument to be built...to recognize the spirit of the people who triumphed over all odds to survive and thrive under the direst of conditions. It is a monument to those who went before us to show us how to live our lives. It is also a monument to remember...remember what we did to our own fellow human beings and the strength of the human spirit to survive.

Therefore, I urge the committee to support SB 3136.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Health Committee

It is an honor for me today to submit my testimony on SB 3136; I am in **strong support** of this bill, and hope today that you will support this bill as well.

It has been long over due to those who lived in exile, away from love ones and friends; I speak today of those who were labeled as lepers.

Remembering those with leprosy better known as Hansen's Disease with a monument with their names on it, reminds us all that they existed, that they will be remembered and cherished, that they too were a part of Hawai`i's history.

There is about 27 or maybe less Hansen's disease patients left who continues to reside on the peninsula settlement of Kalaupapa, they are the last of the kupuna's to see this monument become a reality.

The Governor in her press release yesterday acknowledges the states responsibility to ensure that the settlement of Kalaupapa is safe and well maintained, why not acknowledge the recognition of the names on a monument of all those who have lived and pass on and to those who time is yet to come.

I ask again to please support this bill and move it to the Ways and Means Committee for appropriations.

Mahalo
William Ho`ohuli

Honorable Senator's of the Health Committee
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker
Senator Ron Menor
Senator Paul Whalen

I write my testimony in **strong support** of SB 3136. I implore you to please pass this bill on behalf of the families who have endured the hardship and torment of the separation of love ones who have contracted the disease leprosy better known today as Hansen's Disease.

Between the years of 1866 to 1969 it is estimated that about 8,000 people were sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, Moloka'i, Hawaii, with very little; some with nothing.

Father Damien whose statue stands in front of the Hawaii State Capitol is recognized today in Hawaii's History a statue dedicated on his behalf for his services, compassion and love he showed and gave back to the leprosy people. He also wrote there were 2,000 graves surrounding his church which is located up in Kalawao County, today only a handful of markers can be seen, and most of them are no longer readable due to the constant weather change in Kalawao.

Having a monument in Kalawao County with the names of those who lived through the times of the leprosy plaque, a time when this disease was not understood nor curable, who were separated from their families and forced to endure many injustices because of society's fear, will and should be remembered in our Hawaii History.

There is a handful left here today yet to tell the stories of friends and love ones who have pass away, the stories of their lives on how they lived and survived living on the peninsula of Kalaupapa, to reminisce on memories that soon will be just that.

Having a monument with the names of those who were sent there is a small token of what they sacrificed. With the Hawaii State Legislatures help you can make this happen.

Mahalo
Black Ho`ohuli

February 13, 2008

To: Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Health Committee

From: Nina Fisher

Subject: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR A MONUMENT TO BE PLACED IN KALAWAO COUNTY
RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO WERE SENT TO KALAUPAPA WITH
HANSEN'S DISEASE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my strong support on SB 3136.

For those who know the history of the first settlement for lepers in Hawaii, this bill is but a small token to ask the State of Hawaii to support and appropriate, the language in the bill speaks for it's self.

As you read the testimonies that are submitted and to those who come before you today, I ask that you listen carefully to the tone of their voices, it is a plead from deep within for those who have no voice now and to those who are left to carry out this task before the last one hala (pass on).

testimony

From: Sol Kahoohalahala [pili_sol@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 12:19 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 3136

To: Senate Sergeant of Arms

Please deliver testimony to:

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Senator David Ige, chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, vice chair

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: State Capitol, Room 16

Re: SB 3136

Senate Health Committee Chair Sen. David Ige, Vice-Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga and committee members.
Aloha kākou āpau.

My name is Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala and I am submitting testimony in support SB 3136, Making an appropriation for a monument to be placed in Kalawao recognizing those who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's Disease.

The residents of Kalaupapa have made a simply request that we never forget them and the more than 8,000 Hansen's patients who were confined, lived and died in Kalaupapa. Each person made contributions to their community, each has a story that should be told and more importantly, each should be remembered by their names. To simply relegate them as Hansen's patients or residents of the Leprosy colony is to diminish and deny their personal identity. Each and every person in Kalaupapa deserves to be called by his or her names.

I am a descendent of Kalawao District Magistrate Ambrose Kaho'ohalahala and his wife Lillian Awai Kaho'ohalahala who resided at Kalawao. My Uncle Jeremiah Kaopuiki was a well-known paniolo at Kalaupapa where he lived, met and married Sarah Meyer of Kalae, Molokai. They should each be remembered for their contribution to the fabric of life in Kalaupapa. Without this recognition, we would lose the essence of their being, creating gaps in our lineal heritage and missing the pieces of 'ohana that make us whole.

The request for a monument, made by the few remaining residents, is a request for dignity, recognition and life. The Hawaiian word, "Ha" is described as the breath and essence of life or to give life. To speak and to utter ones name, is to acknowledge ones being, ones life. All 8,000 of those who have passed at Kalawao and Kalaupapa, should be honored with recognition of life. We are charged with the fulfillment of this request. We collectively have the ability to give life to the names of our past.

This SB 3136 will create a memorial acknowledging each person at Kalawao and Kalaupapa, Moloka'i. It will allow us to breathe life back into their names so that we may hear them once more. The sound of their names will call to families who will recognize them, families whose lives will be enriched by the stories their lost or forgotten loved ones and lastly, to ensure that families never allow their beloved to pass silent and unnoticed in the winds of time.

Mahalo for your kind consideration and support of **SB 3136**.

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2/13/2008

Please Honor our Beloved over At Kalaupapa they 've been ignored too long. I have had the priveledge to visit Kalaupapa and visit with the patients and their families, it was a great weekend. They welcomed us with open arms and shared with us their struggles on trying to build a memorial for our Patients whos passed and present. They should be recognized this is long overdue.

Thanks to Father Damien they learned to record, communicate and build tombstones so now we know some of our Ohana whom have passed and buried there.To me they are Heroes Let them know they are not forgotten and will be honored always. Please, Please, Please have compassion and remember all they've endured. Ka Ohana o' Kalaupapa has done a great deal to come this far with no financial support and a whole lot of time so please, Members of the Senate we would be deeply Greatful when you pass SB 3136.

Mahalo nui loa,


Support of 3136

(Denise Kalahiki)

Kalaupapa, Moloka'i
A settlement for Patients with Hansens Disease

I'am a native Hawaiian in strong support of SB3136. I have had the priviledge of being invited to stay and visit with the patients, DOH Staff, State Staff, Dept. of National Park Service , Ka Ohana O' Kalaupapa and their Families. We have learned so much of their pain and struggles on trying to get this Bill passed. Please honor our Beloved over at Kalaupapa passed and present they've been ignored too long. This is long overdue.

Thanks to Father Damien they've learned to record and communicate. They even learned how to build Tombstones which surrounds you as you walk through the peninsula, so now we can learn of our ohana who have passed there. Please let them know they are not forgotten they've lived in exile to keep us safe they are heroes. Ka Ohana o Kalaupapa has gone through great lengths to bring this situation to our table, even without financial support and have given so much of their time. So Please Members of the Senate I will deeply be greatful when you do pass SB3136 I'am faithful you will do the right by them.

**Mahalo nui,
Edmund Pa'ao'ao**

testimony

From: pualani kahooalahala [pua2978@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:15 AM
To: testimony
Subject: support for SB 3136...

L A T E

I support SB 3136.....

Although an estimated 8,000 people were isolated at Kalaupapa from 1866 to 1969, only about 1,300 graves have been identified. That means nearly 6,700 people have no marked graves and their families can find no place to find closure and say their prayers.

Let's return the people of Kalaupapa to their rightful place in Hawaii's history and in their family histories. Let us celebrate their names.

In the words of Mr. Punikai`a,

"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."

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<http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs>

testimony

From: Haaheo Kahoohalahala [khaaheo@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony for SB 3136

To: Senate Sergeant of Arms

Please deliver testimony to:

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Senator David Ige, chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, vice chair

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: State Capitol, Room 16

Re: SB 3136

Senate Health Committee Chair Sen. David Ige, Vice-Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga and committee members.
Aloha

My name is Haaheo Kaho'ohalahala and I am submitting testimony in support SB 3136, Making an appropriation for a monument to be placed in Kalawao recognizing those who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's Disease.

I am a descendent of Kalawao District Magistrate Ambrose Kaho'ohalahala and his wife Lillian Awai Kaho'ohalahala who resided at Kalawao. My Uncle Jeremiah Kaopuiki was a well-known paniolo at Kalaupapa where he lived, met and married Sarah Meyer of Kalae, Molokai. They should each be remembered for their contribution to the fabric of life in Kalaupapa. Without this recognition, we would lose the essence of their being, creating gaps in our lineal heritage and missing the pieces of 'ohana that make us whole.

This SB 3136 is essential to acknowledge and remember each person at Kalawao and Kalaupapa, Moloka'i. It is also essential so future generations will know the the history of this wonderful place.

Mahalo for your kind consideration and support of **SB 3136**.

Haaheo Kahoohalahala

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