



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2370\_HD1  
RELATING TO KALAUPAPA MONTH**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/11/2020

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** This bill requests that the month of January be known and designated  
3 as "Kalaupapa month." Notably, January was the month when the first twelve Hansen's disease  
4 patients arrived on the peninsula, as well as the birth month of Saint Damien, Saint Marianne,  
5 and Mr. Ambrose Hutchison, who was the first Kalaupapa superintendent as well as a patient.

6 The department supports designating the month of January as "Kalaupapa month" because of its  
7 great significance to the people of Hawaii, in recognition of the many sacrifices many  
8 individuals made during those difficult times, and the legacy that endures as an important part of  
9 Hawaii's history.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

11

12

13



Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

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

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Valerie Monson, Executive Director  
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 11:29:33 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 5:16:08 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George M Clifford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman  
Committee on Water, Lands and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370-SD 1  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 9 am  
Room 325, Hawai'i State Capitol

Kalaupapa Month – SB2370

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

Aloha Chair Yamani and Members of the Committee on Water, Lands and Hawaiian Affairs

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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 interpretive talks regarding St. Elizabeth [Bishop Home] Convent/Chapel and Mother Marianne's gravesite.

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

I strongly support of SB 2370 - to designate January as Kalaupapa Month and believe that it would be a reminder to all people in Hawaii and elsewhere, about the importance of Kalaupapa and its significant contribution made by the 8,000 people who, by their isolation, helped stop the spread of leprosy.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Barbara Jean Wajda, osf  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
[bjwajda@gmail.com](mailto:bjwajda@gmail.com)

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman  
Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

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

Dear Chairman Yamane and Members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Ryan I. Yamane Chairman  
Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai`i State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m.  
Room 325, Hawai`i State Capitol

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

Aloha Chairman Ryan I. Yamane, and Committee Members of Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs.

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 2370-SD1. Perhaps no month contains no more important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa than the month of January. This is the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; the month of the birthdays of Father Damien and Mother Marianne who have both been canonized; the month when the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday – and other important dates.

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



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

Respectfully submitted,

Colin K Brede

Nephew of David Brede, Jimmy Brede and Nancy Brede

Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Friend of Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise

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

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

**Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman**  
Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Legislature, Honolulu, HI 96813

**Bill Number: SB2370-SD1 To designate January as Kalaupapa Month**

Hearing: March 11, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Room 325, Hawai'i State Capitol

**Dear Chairman Yamane 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 2370-SD1 designating January as Kalaupapa Month.**

- January is the birthdays of our Saints of Hawai'i: Saint Marianne Cope (January 23, 1838), who as a Sister of St. Francis responded to the call of King Kalakaua and Queen Kapiolani in 1883 to care for those afflicted with leprosy spending 30 years in Kalaupapa, and Saint Damien deVeuster (January 3, 1840) arrived at Kalaupapa in 1873 and cared for the people in Kalaupapa for 16 years.
- On January 6, 1866, the first 12 citizen of Hawai'i, who arrived at the Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy, were the first of 8,000 people taken from their families and forcibly isolated at Kalaupapa never to see their loved ones they left again.
- On January 5, 1879, Ambrose Hutchison arrived at Kalaupapa and lived there for 53 years. He was a Resident Superintendent for 10 years and worked alongside of Father Damien and Mother Marianne. He also helped with the visit of the Ali'i to Kalaupapa.
- January 1895: During this month the original/final kama'aina residents of Kalaupapa were forced to leave the peninsula. Since 1866, the kama'aina residents helped the early residents with much kindness, compassion, support, and even supplies. They were evicted a year after the Republic of Hawai'i was established.

Thank you very much for making it possible for me to ask you for your support of SB2370-SD1 to designate January as Kalaupapa Month. 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](mailto:sisterdavilyn@gmail.com)  
(808) 689-0474

MARCH 10, 2020

Representative Ryan I Yamane, Chairman  
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Regarding SB2370-SD-1, Kalaupapa Month

Hearing to be held on March 11, 9 a.m., Room 325

I am in FULL SUPPORT of SB2370-SD1 providing for the establishment of January as Kalaupapa Month.

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs.

I am one of the founding members of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa along with numerous other other dedicated residents of Kalaupapa, their extended ohana and long time friends of the community. I am writing to lend my FULL SUPPORT to SB 2370 SD-1.

So many dynamic events at Kalaupapa took place in the month of January. Kalaupapa is such a important and unique Chapter in the history of our State, a Chapter that many of our State's population has only heard bits and pieces of.

Having January as Kalaupapa Month each year will keep the history of the Kalaupapa community and her people in the forefront for years to come.

For Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, January will be a time to continue emphasis on our yearly Kalaupapa educational and other community outreach programs. January each year will also tie in with the 'Ohana's annual fundraising campaign to enrich the Memorial's endowment fund, which is intended to insure that the Memorial and its surrounding grounds are maintained in pristine condition in perpetuity, and to help sustain the 'Ohana's highly successful community outreach programs such as "The Restoration of Family Ties" program through which the 'Ohana has reconnected more than 800 families with their ancestors at Kalaupapa during the past several years.

Attached are two letter that reflect the intent and success of the 'Ohana's relationship with residents and family members at Kalaupapa, relationships that will only be enhanced should your Committee approve January as Kalaupapa Month 'and move it along for final approval of the Legislature. ,

One letter is from Reverend Charles Buck, former Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, which owns the historic Siloama Church located next to the site where the Memorial will be established. The other letter is from Anne Mehealani Apo who had kupuna at Kalaupapa and has worked closely with the 'Ohana.

Again, please allow me to emphasize again my FULL Support for Senate Bill 2370-SD1

Me ke aloha pumehana





HAWAII  
CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Haunani Apoliona  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711-Kapiolani Blvd.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Apoliona :

As Conference Minister of the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, I am supportive of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and their efforts "to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969."

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?

Page 2 of 2 (Kalaupapa)

Together we are addressing these questions, and a memorial of some kind as well as and other projects to provide family members with more information, developing an orientation program for staffers and visitors at Kalaupapa, and helping family members visit Kalaupapa 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. history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Buck".

Charles Buck  
Hawai'i Conference Minister

cc: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa (c/o Valerie Monson)

---

Dear Ka `Ohana O` Kalaupapa,

I write this letter on behalf of my family and for the ancestors of Kalaupapa waiting to be reunited with their Ohana.

Ka `Ohana O` Kalaupapa has been a significant part of my family. The organization has helped us connect to our ancestors and piece together an important part of our geneology necessary for preserving our family lineage.

My grandmother never spoke of her father, all that we knew of his life was that he left Hilo to live in Kalaupapa with his teenage son who had contracted leprosy. Just one of the many sad stories of families fallen victim to a deadly disease.

After reading an issue of Ka `Ohana O` Kalaupapa's newsletter and learning of the organization's vision to reunite families of Kalaupapa, I decided to contact the organization. My daughter and I attended Ka `Ohana O` Kalaupapa's 2007 annual meeting, a journey that began a fateful time in our lives. It was the beginning that would uncover one of the most treasured discoveries of our family tree.

The information provided to us was astounding. We learned that our great grandfather, John T. Unea, was the manager of the Kalaupapa Store and a teacher for the Kalaupapa School. He also recorded the first census of the Kalaupapa Settlement in 1900 where his name can be found on every page of the census thus instilling in our hearts a confirmation of dignity.

We were overjoyed and proud to learn about our kupuna's life and continue to learn more about him and other members of our family that were exiled to Kalaupapa. We are also indebted to the "Ohana" for uniting us with the patients of Kalaupapa and their families creating a bond that our ancestors once shared.

We are grateful for all the help that Ka `Ohana O` Kalaupapa has given us and we support their endeavors. We believe the Ohana is an integral part to the survival of the history of Kalaupapa and to the preservation of family genealogy.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,  
Anne Mahealani Apo  
for my Papa Unea & Family

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

**I write in SUPPORT of SB2370-SD1 designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawaii**

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As a family member of one of the earliest residents of Kalaupapa, I strongly support the proposal put forth by the Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to designate each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i.

After years of researching my family history, in 2015, I finally discovered the story of my 3X great grandfather, John Ernstberger, a German blacksmith, sent to Kalawao in 1868, accompanied by his Hawaiian wife, Luka. Only 2 years after the settlement was established in 1866, I can't even begin to imagine the hardships they had to endure! Although these exiles had no choice but to live in Kalaupapa at the time, looking back on their situation makes me truly appreciate how isolated and abandoned they must have felt. So many people died there during the early days that most, including my 3X great grandfather, do not even have marked graves but were buried instead in the great field next to St. Damien's Church. Although we were grateful to have paid homage at the ahu where we hope one day a memorial will be built, it was sad not to be able to visit a marked grave.

The Kalaupapa 'Ohana was instrumental in helping to confirm my family's ties to Kalaupapa and invited me and other family members, including my 88-year-old mother, to visit in November 2015. Establishing January as Kalaupapa month, I believe, will raise the awareness of its importance in our Hawaiian history and increase the likelihood of other families delving into their family history and thus discovering their ties to the Kalaupapa community.

I humbly ask for your support of SB22370-SD1, designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration!

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Shimomoto  
99-152 Waipao Place  
Aiea, HI 96701  
patty.shimomoto@hawaiiantel.net

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

**I write in SUPPORT of SB2370-SD1 designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawaii**

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As a family member of one of the earliest residents of Kalaupapa, I strongly support the proposal put forth by the Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to designate each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i.

After years of researching my family history, in 2015, I finally discovered the story of my 3X great grandfather, John Ernstberger, a German blacksmith, sent to Kalawao in 1868, accompanied by his Hawaiian wife, Luka. Only 2 years after the settlement was established in 1866, I can't even begin to imagine the hardships they had to endure! Although these exiles had no choice but to live in Kalaupapa at the time, looking back on their situation makes me truly appreciate how isolated and abandoned they must have felt. So many people died there during the early days that most, including my 3X great grandfather, do not even have marked graves but were buried instead in the great field next to St. Damien's Church. Although we were grateful to have paid homage at the ahu where we hope one day a memorial will be built, it was sad not to be able to visit a marked grave.

The Kalaupapa 'Ohana was instrumental in helping to confirm my family's ties to Kalaupapa and invited me and other family members, including my 88-year-old mother, to visit in November 2015. Establishing January as Kalaupapa month, I believe, will raise the awareness of its importance in our Hawaiian history and increase the likelihood of other families delving into their family history and thus discovering their ties to the Kalaupapa community.

I humbly ask for your support of SB22370-SD1, designating each January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration!

Respectfully submitted,

Glorianne K. Garza  
P.O. Box 1284  
Volcano, HI 96785  
gkgarza@outlook.com



**SB-2370-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 9:03:23 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Texeira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

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

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As the Hawaiian Specialist Librarian at Windward Community College, a campus of the University of Hawai'i system, I am in strong support of a proposal from the Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai'i.

Our library recently hosted an award-winning exhibit about the remarkable people and history of Kalaupapa and received an overwhelmingly positive response from our community. Over 250 people visited the exhibit and their feedback begged for more. More education, more recognition and more opportunities to connect to the history of Kalaupapa.

As an educator, a parent and a student who grew up in Hawai'i, Kalaupapa needs to be included in our teachings to every generation coming forth. The little I learned in school doesn't do justice to the rich history of the place and the resilience of the people. Let January be the month we raise awareness about this important place and it's history.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cindy Texeira



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
WITNESS TO JESUS

**LATE**

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB2370-SD1 (SSCR 3206).

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu (Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii)

Date: March 10, 2020

I would like to testify IN FAVOR of the Hawaii State Legislature declaring January as KALAUPAPA MONTH.

Kalaupapa is a strong reminder of our need to care for one another and not to isolate ourselves from those who are in need. Although in these days of the threat of the spread of the coronavirus we are aware of the need to isolate those who may be contagious for the sake of the greater community, even those who are isolated are worthy of our care and concern. The story of Kalaupapa reminds us of a lesson of our history that no disease should cause anyone to live in a manner in which his or her human dignity is diminished.

January would be the ideal month for Kalaupapa Month, since many events took place in that first month of the year:

- Birth of St. Damien DeVeuster
- Birth of St. Marianne Cope
- Sending of the first patients to Kalaupapa for isolation
- Arrival of the beloved Ambrose Hutchinson in Kalaupapa as its Superintendent
- Exile of the kama'aina already living in Kalaupapa when it was declared a leprosy settlement.

I highly endorse naming the month of January "Kalaupapa Month" in Hawaii!

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman, Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

SB2370-SD1 Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9 a.m., Room 325

**LATE**

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

Aloha Chairman Yamane and members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

We are residents of Kalaupapa, currently residing at Hale Mohalu at Leahi Hospital. We join with others who strongly support the State Legislature designating January as Kalaupapa Month annually in Hawai'i.

Two of us – Boogie Kahilihiwa and Gloria Marks – are Officers with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the nonprofit organization that proposed this bill. The Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana was thinking of ways to help schools, churches and the public to pay special attention to the history of Kalaupapa and to the resilient people who have made contributions to Kalaupapa throughout that history.

When we realized that so many of these important events took place in January of various years, we thought that Kalaupapa Month would be a wonderful way to get the word out to the entire state.

As others have pointed out, January was the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; it was the month when both Father Damien and Mother Marianne were born; it is the month when the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday, and it was the month when Kalaupapa residents began the movement to save Hale Mohalu in Pearl City, forming an impressive network of supporters who stood aside Kalaupapa residents.

There are only 12 of us left – and we are hoping our history and our personal stories of triumph will always be remembered to inspire others.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

With respect,

*Gloria L. Marks*  
*Boogie Kahilihiwa*

*Daniel Haskins*

March 10, 2020

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chairman  
House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Regarding: SB2370-SD1 – Kalaupapa Month

Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 9 a.m., Room 325

**LATE**

**We write in strong support of SB2370-SD1 – Establishing January as Kalaupapa Month annually in Hawai'i Nei**

Aloha Chairman Yamane and Members of the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Greetings from Kalaupapa! We hope you will accept our written testimony as our voices of strong support of SB2370-SD1, establishing January as Kalaupapa Month across Hawai'i.

As longtime residents of Kalaupapa, we support the efforts of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in proposing this bill that would help shine the light on the history and the people of Kalaupapa every year. Leaders of Ka 'Ohana researched important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa and learned that many of these significant events occurred in the month of January.

We believe this is a wonderful way for teachers, students, church leaders – and just the general public – to focus on Kalaupapa and remember the nearly 8,000 people who were taken from their homes and forcibly isolated here. We are among those people and look forward to celebrating next January – and each January after that – as Kalaupapa Month.

Mahalo for your time and service to all of us in Hawai'i.

With warmest regards,

*Prudence Merritt*  
*Johanna Amadio*  
*Pauline Crow*

*Wendy Merritt*  
*Meli Watanuki*