

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3338

February 14, 2022
3:10 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 3338.

S.B. No. 3338 appropriates \$5,000,000 in general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Office of Community Services, for design, plans and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIA DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
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IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 22.1036

February 10, 2022

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Date: Monday, February 14, 2022

Time: 3:10 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol & videoconference

From: Jovanie Domingo Dela Cruz, Executive Director
DLIR – Office of Community Services

Re: S.B. 3338 – RELATING TO THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL

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

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 3338 would appropriate five million dollars for the design, plans, and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial on the island of Molokai. The bill directs that the funds would be expended by the Office of Community Services (OCS), an agency administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, there are no appropriations for a Kalaupapa Memorial. OCS understands that design and plans of the Memorial have already been completed, and that only construction remains to be done.

III. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The present bill would provide an appropriation to establish a Kalaupapa Memorial to serve as a permanent commemoration of the people who were isolated on the peninsula of Kalaupapa, Molokai by government policies because of Hansen's disease, starting in 1866.

The property where the Memorial would be constructed is owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and is currently under a long-term general lease to the National Park Service. The Park Service has developed a General Management Plan (GMP) for the Kalaupapa National Historic Park, which it issued in August 2021. Among the important statements in the GMP that reflect on the Memorial:

“This Kalaupapa NHP General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (GMP/EA) provides broad direction and guidance for resource management, visitor use and access, and an operational shift from comanagement with the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health to primary management by the NPS.” (GMP, page 1)

“In the near future, a fundamental transition in the operation of the park will occur. While Hansen’s disease patients remain at Kalaupapa NHP, park operations are subservient to services and health care for the patients, patient privacy, and maintaining patients’ lifestyles, substantially managed by the DOH. Once the park is no longer a home for the Hansen’s disease community, the fundamental management direction of the park will have to change. The GMP provides guidance for the management of the park’s cultural and natural resources necessary to determine program goals and desired future conditions and address future visitor use at Kalaupapa NHP. When there is no longer a living patient community at Kalaupapa NHP, the GMP will be critical to addressing visitor use issues related to access and transportation to and within the park, as well as visitor facilities and services.” (GMP, pages 4-5)

OCS supports the intent of this bill and is greatly honored to be considered for the duty of overseeing construction of the Memorial, especially because of the historical and cultural importance of the Kalaupapa settlement. However, OCS does not have an institutional background in Hawaiian cultural issues, nor has OCS been a participant in the planning process, unlike NPS and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) who are already working with Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa regarding long-term management plans (GMP, page 10). We believe that other agencies in the State government would be better suited to administer the construction and maintenance of this Memorial in cooperation with the Hawaiian community and the National Park Service.

The Kalaupapa area is currently being administered, in one way or another, by DHHL, DOH, and NPS. Additionally, DLNR is already working with interested parties regarding the management of the memorial. We respectfully suggest that construction of the Memorial should be undertaken under the supervision of one of these entities in a manner consistent with the GMP.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 12, 2022

TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 12, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3338, RELATING TO THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the design, plans, and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. By supporting the Kalaupapa Memorial, this bill would allow for family members to reconnect with their ancestors and their stories and bring a crucial segment of Hawaii's past to light.
2. The design, plans, and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial envision stone walls making two interlocking circles. This is representative of bringing the people of Kalaupapa and their families back together.
3. The Kalaupapa Memorial will list the names of the nearly 8,000 people who were taken from their families and sent to Kalaupapa, appropriately bringing them honor and recognition.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure.

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:52:18 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Brasher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB3338 because of the importance of honoring the thousands of men, women and children who were forcibly relocated and lived out the remainder of their lives in Kalaupapa. Many were buried but no gravestone remains to mark their passing. To date, no single great memorial testifies to their experience of exile and isolation for present and future generations to learn of their lives and deaths. Their experience is unique in the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the later Territory and State. You have the opportunity now to right this historical oversight by creating a prominent and permanent marker for all to see and know and remember these thousands of souls whose only misfortune was exposure to a highly contagious and then-untreatable disease. This testimony may not be delivered in person because the Capitol is closed as a pandemic plagues these islands and planet today. What more fitting a time to pause and give suitable honor to those who suffered under a past pandemic?

Mahalo nui loa,
Dr. Mark Brasher,
History Teacher, 'Iolani School

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:12:13 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lopaka Hoopii	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa	Support	No

Comments:

I am Lopaka Hoopii, former President of Ka Ohana o Kalaupapa. My father, Robert, was born in Kalaupapa in 1928. He is 93 years old as of February 3rd. The memorial has been a dream of his since the beginning. His parents (my grandparents), Alex and Mary, and two brothers, Samuel and Alex Jr. are also buried in Kalaupapa. I believe one of the reasons he continues to live is to see this Memorial come to fruition. Our family has donated much of our time and efforts to ensure this memorial is built.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Lopaka Hoopii

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Art Committee Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Bill Number: SB3338

Hearing: Monday, Feb 14, 2022 Conference Room 325, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in strong SUPPORT of SB3338, funding \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial construction

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 as an architect in developing the conceptual design for an historically very important memorial such as this 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 of the memorial and I strongly believe that it was divinely inspired as a result of my prayer. When we arrived at the very site where the memorial is to be constructed, I verbally presented the design among the members of the Committee and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. They all happily accepted the design. Since then, the design has been used as the project vision and to promote the project and now developed into construction document.

The concept is composed of two circles: Mauka circle representing the 8000 people with Hansen's disease who were sent away to Kalaupapa and Makai circle representing the family who were left behind. The two circles were pulled and juxtaposed together at the middle. The juxtaposition represents one of the main purposes of the memorial: that is to reconnect the families who were separated forever.

There will be a stone wall surrounding Mauka circle as if embracing the circle. It will have the names of the 8000 patients to be inscribed onto it to celebrate and memorialize their lives.

I believe it is important for our generations to memorialize these people and their families as well as the place. Therefore we humbly ask for your support of SB3338 to provide funding of \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

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

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:27:31 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tessa Munekiyo Ng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

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 3338 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 SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Tessa Munekiyo Ng

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 5:37:51 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faith Tuipulotu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm in Support of SB 3338.

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:06:57 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I support the design, plans and construction in bill SB2629 for Kalaupapa.

mahalo

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:37:04 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jo-Anne Aiwohi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a well deserved Memorial, please support this bill.

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:24:36 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support a Kalaupapa Memorial. I have had the pleasure of being able to go to Kalaupapa on various occasions. One trip included bringing family members who have a couple of relatives buried on the peninsula. There were able to find one gravestone but not the other. A Kalaupapa Memorial will be a tribute to all individuals who were originally sent to Kalaupapa to live out their lives in isolation. Please pass SB3338.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:02:34 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support Bill SB3338

Mahalo

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

February 11, 2022

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Bill Number: SB3338, Relating to the Kalaupapa Memorial

Hearing: February 14, 2022 at 3:10 p.m.
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB3338, which appropriates \$5,000,000 for the design, plans, and construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

My name is Kehaulani Lum, and I am a Board member of Ka `Ohana o Kalaupapa. I am also a descendent of four family members from Ninole and Wailea, Hawai`i Island, who were exiled to Kalaupapa in the 1900s, as children, when government quarantine policies meant a one-way ticket to a life of isolation, scarcity and death. Only one of my ancestors, my late granduncle, Henry Kalalahilimoku Nala`ielua, was ever heard from again. His beloved sisters Evelyn and Christina, and his Uncle Joe were separately taken away from the family home, without explanation, and died within months of their arrival at the peninsula.

Uncle Henry was only a 10-year-old child, when he was “taken into custody,” a term of practice, on May 12, 1936. He was given a new identity, Patient Number 3367, and it would be his number, for the rest of his life.

Uncle Henry joined his fellow residents, when he testified to the U.S. Senate, in 2009, calling for the creation of a Memorial, saying:

“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. Through your compassion and caring, and the commitment of the 'Ohana and a prestigious volunteer design team, we can say to him, in pule, that it is coming to fruition.

8,000 innocent individuals were exiled to Kalaupapa, during this dark period of Hawai'i's history, most of whom died there and are buried in unmarked graves, separated in life and in death from their parents and families. Yet, we have no sacred site to honor and connect to them and their selfless sacrifices. There is no edifice that speaks their names.

I have had the great fortune to stand at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, in Washington, D.C., and lovingly touch the names of the warriors who gave their lives for their country. And, I have read the names that line the wall of honor of the Arizona Memorial, in solemn ceremony. One does not need to know them or be related to them to feel profoundly touched and grateful.

In the same way, the Kalaupapa Memorial will remember and honor these heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice, to alleviate the suffering of others, by their name. Many of them belong to children who were separated from their families, forever, because they had no immunity to the disease. They have been left out of history and their family genealogy and are waiting to be rediscovered. 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.

The National Park Service writes of Kalaupapa in this way:

"Few places in the world better illustrate the human capacity for endurance or for charity than the remote Kalaupapa Peninsula on the island of Molokai. The area achieved notoriety when the Kingdom of Hawai'i instituted a century-long policy of forced segregation of persons afflicted with Hansen's disease...On January 6, 1866, the first group of nine men and three women were dropped off at the mouth of Waikolu Valley, the closest accessible point to Kalawao on the southeast side of the peninsula. By October of the same year, 101 men and 41 women had been left to die at Kalawao."

The law forcing the permanent exile of children, women and men diagnosed with Hansen's Disease would remain in full execution until 1969, when it was finally abolished. Can we even imagine such a fate, today, even as we face the greatest pandemic of our time? Absolutely, not. The Kalaupapa Memorial 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.

Ka 'Ohana is requesting \$5 million from the Legislature for construction of the Memorial, and we are raising an additional \$5 million for an endowment to make sure the Memorial is maintained and cared for in perpetuity. The cost, per person, of this request is miniscule, compared to the price that they paid, so that others could breathe free.

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership and support and for shining a light on Hawai`i's true heroes. Our gratitude will run, for generations.

Aloha nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum, Grandniece of Evelyn, Christina and Henry Nala`ielua and Great grandniece of Joe Nala`ielua. Kehaulanilum@Ameritech.net

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

Bill Number: SB3338

Monday, Feb 14, 2022 Conference Room 325

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

Dear Sir / Madam,

We write in support of SB3338, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial construction.

Over the past decennium, the Damien Archives in Leuven and the Damien Museum in Tremelo (Belgium) have closely been working together with Anwei Law and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa doing research on the history of Father Damien and of the people who were sent to Molokaï.

We were happy to give them free access to our collection in their effort to draw a comprehensive list of all people that were isolated on Kalaupapa in a timespan of more than 100 years. They also assisted us in designing the new display and narrative of the Damien Museum in Tremelo that was opened to the public in 2017, enabling us not only to tell the story of Father Damien, but of all the people he shared his life with on Kalaupapa.

We are writing to you in strong support of SB 3338 which would provide funding for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. The Memorial will remember and honor the 8,000 men, women, and children forcibly sent and isolated at Kalaupapa. One of them was Father Damien. Remembering his name side by side with the people he lived and died with, is a very powerful way to express our shared history. We also hope that by erecting the memorial present and future generations can pay homage to the people sent to Kalaupapa, find healing, and acknowledge this important part of history.

Therefor we ask for your support of SB 3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully,

Bart Massart, president Board of the Damien Museum in Tremelo, Belgium

Sonia Crabbé, member Board of the Damien Museum in Tremelo, Belgium

Pieter Geens, staff member Damien Museum in Tremelo, Belgium

Patrik Jaspers, staff member Damien Archives in Leuven, Belgium

Ruben Boon, staff member Damien Museum in Tremelo, Belgium and Damien Archives Leuven, Belgium

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:44:51 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB3338, 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, of Maui and the Big Island, worked tirelessly to bring this memorial to fruition and honor the patients who were sent there as well as the families who experienced such loss.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Cheryl Kuulei Reeser

February 10, 2022

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

SB3338: Providing \$5 million to build The Kalaupapa Memorial

Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 325

We write in strong support of SB3338

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

We are all longtime residents of Kalaupapa who were taken from our families and isolated under the old laws regarding people affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease. Our respective ages are 97, 91 and 86.

We want to see the names of everyone who was sent to Kalaupapa engraved on The Kalaupapa Memorial. We want to see the Memorial dedicated while we are still living. Please help us.

The Kalaupapa community has wanted a Memorial since 1985. The Memorial was the idea of the late Paul Harada, husband of one of the signers of this letter, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1945. Paul felt the people of Kalaupapa had sacrificed their freedom and so many rights to protect the health of others in the community. He felt everyone should be remembered.

When Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized in 2003, those of us who were founding members of the 'Ohana agreed that one of our priorities would be to establish a Memorial that would list the names of everyone sent here. Most of the people who came before us no longer have marked tombstones -- their families are always disappointed not to see the names of their ancestors.

The Memorial will forever remember each and every name with dignity. All the names will be together as they should be. Future generations will find the names of their ancestors on the Memorial and hopefully feel a sense of healing and pride.

We are getting older, our numbers are getting fewer and we want to see the Memorial. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been working hard on completing the needed compliance, obtaining the needed permits and working with others to see this Memorial brought to life. We all love the design of the Memorial and we all strongly support the site where it will be located.

Please help make the Memorial possible and pass SB3338 to provide \$5 million to fund construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Suz K. Kahilika

John Arvidson Harada

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

Bill Number: SB3338
Monday, February 14, 2022, Conference Room 225

I write in strong support of SB3338, funding \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial construction

Chairman Taniguchi and Members of The Labor, Culture, and The Arts Committee,

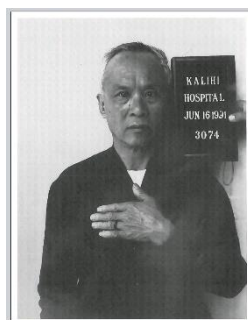
My name is Susan Woo Smith. I am the great-granddaughter of Wong Chew, who was taken from his family in 1931 and forced to reside in Kalaupapa from 1935 until his death in 1939. In 2016, I began a journey to learn about my great-grandfather. At the time, I didn't even know his name, as little was ever spoken about him. I only knew he had been taken from his family by "Men in white coats." His neighbors all thought he was taken to an insane asylum, and his family thought it better to remain quiet rather than share the truth and stigma of his disease.

I have since come to know Wong Chew, my great-grandfather, as a successful businessman, husband, and father of thirteen children. The street where he resided in Honolulu was named for him and the other resident who lived on the street. 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 a community. Realizing this made me proud of my great-grandfather for his courage and brought pride, rather than shame, to my family. It brought his name back to light, no longer hidden from our history.

I am writing in strong support of SB3338, 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 and will remember and honor them by name. The Memorial will be a place where present and future generations can pay homage to the people sent to Kalaupapa, find healing, and where all can acknowledge this important part of history.

I ask for your support of SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

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



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

Bill Number: SB3338

Hearing: Monday, February 14, 2022, Conference Room 225

I write in support of SB3338, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial construction

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

My name is Marcia Weight Lyons. My father, Edward Weight, was born in Kalaupapa, taken from his parents who he never knew, and lived his childhood in an orphanage and foster homes. My grandparents, Marcia Ka-ne Weight and Harold Weight, who were sent to Kalaupapa, and two of their five children are buried there.

I am writing in support of SB3338 which would provide \$5 million to fund construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* has been working on this project at the request of Kalaupapa residents who expressed their desire to establish a Memorial in Kalaupapa that would list the names of those sent there as a way to remember and honor them.

I have been a member of, and a volunteer with *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* for over a decade and I have had multiple opportunities to hear Kalaupapa residents share their stories, feelings, and thoughts on what it would mean to them to have this memorial built. 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 connected with *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* and met other families with Kalaupapa connections. I saw my Dad come to a new awareness of who he was. Through his involvement with *Ka 'Ohana* members and visits to Kalaupapa he had a sense of belonging to a place and a new understanding of his own family. This is why I know that the Memorial will serve as a place of reconnection and healing for descendants.

Please support SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

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

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman, Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
From: Kalaupapa residents at Leahi Hospital, Hale Mohalu

Re: SB3338: Providing \$5 million to build The Kalaupapa Memorial

Hearing: Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 325

We write in strong support of SB3338

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

We are residents of Kalaupapa currently at Hale Mohalu at Leahi Hospital on Oahu. We have been excited to read all the recent coverage of Kalaupapa Month and about a bill to fund construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial being introduced to the Hawai'i State Legislature.

We urge this Committee to pass on this bill. We want to see the Memorial built during our lifetimes; we want to see all the names of 8,000 people who were forced to leave their families, most of them being sent to Kalaupapa.

We have all lived at Kalaupapa for many years. We have experienced the injustices, the lack of freedom and other aspects of life that most people in Hawai'i take for granted. Still, we have overcome those circumstances and have found our own blessings.

We know that the people who were sent to Kalaupapa long before us had much more to overcome -- these are the people whose names are still not as well known, people whose families have yet to learn about them. The Kalaupapa Memorial will make sure that the names of all of us are always remembered.

Thank you for caring about the people of Kalaupapa, our families and the importance of remembering our names and our lives.

With respect,

Gloria L. Marks
Nobel Taba

Sebastiana Fernandez

Sister M. Davilyn Ah Chick, osf
Sisters of St. Francis ~ Marianne Cope Convent
2102 Liliha Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman

Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature, Honolulu, HI 96813

Bill Number: SB-3338

Funding \$5,000,000.00 million dollars for the Kalaupapa Memorial Construction

Hearing on February 14, 2022 in Conference Room 325, Hawaii 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, Honolulu, Hawaii. 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. St. Marianne Cope served the people of Kalaupapa for 30 years and was declared by Pope Benedict as a saint, "The Beloved Mother of Outcasts." We, the Sisters of St. Francis, are honored and happy to serve God and His People here in Hawai'i now for 139 years and beyond.

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bill 3338 requesting funding of \$5,000,000.00 for the Kalaupapa Memorial construction, because

- 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, Molokai. This Memorial 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 for all eternity.
- 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.
- May I share with you what Representative Mazie Hirono (now Senator Hirono) from the press release announcing the signing of the Kalaupapa Memorial Act into law by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2009, stated: *"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."*

Thank you very much for making it possible for me to ask you for your support of SB-3338 for \$5,000,000.00 for the Kalaupapa Memorial construction. 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 Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
sisterdavilyn@gmail.com
(808) 538-1526

LATE

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

Bill Number: SB3338

Hearing: February 14, 2022, 3:10 p.m. Room 325, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in support of SB3338, 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-3338

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:21:07 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wally Inglis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair and

Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

I strongly support SB3338 and recommend that the designated amount--\$5 million--be retained in the bill as you pass it along to the Committee on Ways and Means.

For the past forty years I have been privileged to know many Kalaupapa residents. More than a few have since passed away. My introduction came during the 1970s, when Hansen's disease patients were struggling to keep their home at Hale Mohalu in Pearl City.

Bernard Punikai's, a leader both locally and internationally in the leprosy community, became a close and lifelong friend. It is in large part to Bernard's vision and persistence that the Kalaupapa Memorial is close to becoming a reality. He wanted to "see the names" of the thousands of people who lived and died at Kalaupapa. A completed memorial will allow all of us, now and in the generations to come, to see the names and honor their legacy.

I urge you, members of this committee, to move this bill forward and support it as it makes its way through both Houses of the Legislature.

Respectfully,

Wally Inglis

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

Bill Number: SB3338

Hearing: February 14, 2022, 3:10 p.m.
Room 325, Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB3338, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial construction

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

My name is Jason Umemoto. I was a long serving member on the Board of Directors of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa and have continued 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 3338 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 SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Umemoto
Chair, Kalaupapa Memorial Committee

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 8:05:29 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra Collard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My mother Odetta Weight, was born in Kalaupaa in 1931. She was raised in an orphanage and foster homes along with her two brothers. She searched for her parents only to find they were all separated because of Hansen's Disease and discovered she had two additional brothers who also contracted the disease and are buried in Kalaupapa. She was fortunate to be able to locate her father's marked grave but her mother and brothers graves nearby are unmarked. She was so thankful to have been shown where they rest and given some information about them. But many families are not so fortunate. This memorial will list the names of all 8,000 residents for families and future generations. This will give families the opportunity to find the names of their loved ones, to be remembered with dignity and honored for their sacrifices endured by the entire family.

Please help make the Memorial possible and pass SB3338. Thank you for your consideration.

Debra Collard (Staff RN Kalaupapa CareHome and Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa , Board of Directors)

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

SB3338: Providing \$5 million to build The Kalaupapa Memorial

Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 225

I strongly support of SB3338

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

I am a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and now serving as the organization's Coordinator. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is made up of residents, family members and friends of the Kalaupapa community. When we organized in 2003, the Kalaupapa residents asked that The Kalaupapa Memorial be one of our priorities.

Since that time, we have gotten a Congressional Act passed by the United States House and Senate and signed by President Obama to establish the Memorial at Kalaupapa; completed environmental assessments and other compliance requirements; created a final design of the Memorial and meticulously compiled nearly 8,000 names for display.

In addition, Ka 'Ohana has helped probably 900 descendants reconnect or learn more about their Kalaupapa ancestors through our outreach program, "The Restoration of Family Ties." Last year, Ka 'Ohana proposed to designate January of each year as Kalaupapa Month. We thank the Legislature for all that you did to make that happen.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has raised approximately \$325,000 in grants and donations to bring the Kalaupapa Memorial to where it is today. We have also received an estimated \$200,000 as pro-bono contributions for design and planning services from such reputable professional firms as G70 International; Goodfellow Brothers contractors; Munekiyo and Hiraga Planning; Umemoto and Cassandro Design, and others.

The Kalaupapa Memorial has been a longtime dream of many Kalaupapa residents, including Clarence Kahilihiwa, known by his nickname of Boogie. Boogie was President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa from 2009 until last March when he died.

Boogie was taken from his family on Hawai'i Island when he was just 9 years old. He was the fourth child his parents would have to give up because of government policies regarding leprosy or Hansen's disease.

Boogie long spoke about the importance of the Kalaupapa Memorial being engraved with the names of everyone who was sent there -- nearly 8,000 men, women and children. He did not care so much about seeing his own name -- he wanted to see the names of his two sisters, his brother and other 'ohana who had been at Kalaupapa, his many friends and the thousands who died at Kalaupapa before him -- the people who suffered more than he did, the people who experienced even more adversities. To Boogie, the Memorial was about justice and healing.

Several years ago, Boogie was asked to write the foreward for the book, "*Ili Na Ho'omana'o o Kalaupapa: Casting Remembrances of Kalaupapa.*" The foreward was,

essentially, Boogie's homage to the people he loved and admired the most: the people of Kalaupapa. This tribute is why he wanted to see all the names on the Kalaupapa Memorial:

These are Boogie's eloquent and powerful words:

"Our people fought with the Territorial Government for better medication, better way of life and better understanding. They fought for our human rights and, above all, our dignity. And through it all, our people have endured and persevered the many obstacles they had to encounter because of the confinement and the stigma of discrimination.

"Imagine the hardship and separation from your loved ones, the struggle and pains of suffering our people had to contend with, not knowing what tomorrow may bring for them or whether they will continue on the next day.

"Today, I feel so humble and grateful for all the material things and for all the spiritual things that I have.

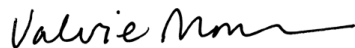
"I have come to love and embrace all the stories from our kupuna and to realize how delicate and important our stories and legacy are to our loved ones, our families and 'ohana, and to all of you, the future generation.

"To all our people who have succumbed to this dreaded disease, you will always be remembered, never to be forgotten. You are the Pillars and Icons of time passed.

"Your stories of Solitude, passion and grace, may your legacy live on with Aloha."

The Kalaupapa Memorial will ensure that the legacies of Boogie and these 8,000 men, women and children live on forever with Aloha, that their names are never forgotten. Together, we can make that happen.

With all best wishes,



Valerie Monson, Coordinator
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



‘Ahahui o nā Kauka

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 1015

Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.548.0270

E-mail huikauka@gmail.com

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February 10, 2022

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 3338, Relating to the Kalaupapa Memorial

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Monday, February 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Dear Senators Taniguchi, Ihara and the members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

As an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians, ‘Ahahui o nā Kauka strongly supports the building of a memorial in Kalaupapa that honors the more than 8,000 Hansen’s Disease patients that lived, suffered and died there, as a result of Hawai‘i’s quarantine laws dating back to 1865 and not rescinded until 1969. Many are buried in unmarked graves. Having suffered the devastation of forcibly being removed and segregated from their families and communities, it is imperative for us, after more than 150 years since beginning of the Kalaupapa Hansen’s Disease settlement, to have a way to honor and remember them, especially since most are without a gravestone to mark where they were laid to rest.

Several of our physicians have ties to Kalaupapa, ranging from helping to care for the remaining patients to being relatives of previous and current patients. They had much taken away and we owe them a lot, including a place in history. In the future, as Kalaupapa continues to transition as a National Park destination, the memorial will serve not only as a place where families can come to remember, or possibly find the names of missing relatives, but also where visitors can come to learn about this tragic chapter in the history of Hawai‘i. Kalaupapa will always have a place on the international stage as well as that small remote peninsula in the middle of the Pacific from which came two beloved Catholic saints.

‘Ahahui o nā Kauka is in full support of Senate Bill 3338 and we urge the Senate to fully fund the design and construction of this much needed and important memorial.



Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee, Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Hearing: Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 225

In strong support of SB3338 – Relating to The Kalaupapa Memorial

Dear Chairman 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 156 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.

“I am proud of our people who, although they were taken away from their homes and families, went on to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of so many others. This is *our* story – a story to be remembered, a story to be treasured, a story to be held close to your hearts.”

– Bernard K. Punikai'a, International Human Rights Advocate, Composer, Musician
(*Kalaupapa: A Collective Memory*)

The Kalaupapa Memorial is the most important interpretive tool we have to tell an inclusive history of Kalaupapa. Over the last several years, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has not only compiled a list of names from several different Department of Health admission records and other sources, but a list of individuals about whom we learn more every day.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will proudly serve as a symbol of justice for the estimated 8,000 individuals sent to Kalaupapa as it returns them to the history of Kalaupapa, the history of their families, the history of Hawai'i and the history of the world. It is also a symbol of justice for people around the world who have experienced this disease and still face the injustice of prejudice and discrimination.

I have been going to Kalaupapa for over 50 years – since I was 16 years old and a junior at Kalani High School. My father was on the Citizen's Committee that abolished 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, as well as people who have experienced leprosy from around the world.

IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity, 32 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148; 315-568-5838.

Kalaupapa: A Collective Memory was more than 500 pages long and filled with the names of and words of people who were taken from their families, friends and communities because they had leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. I have just finished editing the Memoirs of Ambrose Kanewalii Hutchison, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1879, was best friends with Father Damien, worked closely with all the major figures in Kalaupapa's history and lived there for a remarkable 53 years, but who had been left out of his own history until recent years.

“We who are segregated here . . . have made this our homeland.”

-- Ambrose Hutchison, Petition from “the oldest resident of Kalaupapa.”

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 1, 1929

(Yours Faithfully – Ambrose Hutchison. Recollections of Lifetime at Kalaupapa)

Over a half century of researching the history of leprosy in Hawai'i and working to present this history in the words of the people who experienced it, I have seen 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 would prevail in a situation that was so filled with deep personal pain, separation, and hardship. A song written in Hawaiian (c. 1880s) by the boys of Kalawao and preserved by Ambrose Hutchison talked about “bringing peace to people on earth who desire righteousness.”

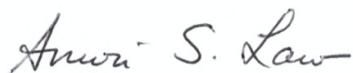
I strongly urge the Hawai'i State Legislature to support SB3338 so that the final residents of Kalaupapa, the family members of everyone sent there and generations to come will be able to personally witness all of the names come back to life.

We love this land, Kalaupapa.
Our pain and loneliness, tears and joys,
Our blood, our bones, our spirit are all here.
We are one with this land!

-- Makia Malo, Excerpt, *Lele Uli – To Dispel Darkness*, Composed for and Performed at the Opening of the “Quest for Dignity” Exhibit at the United Nations, NY, 1997

(Kalaupapa: A Collective Memory)

Sincerely,



Anwei Skinsnes Law, M.P.H.
Director, IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity
President for Heritage & Education, IDEA
Historian, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa
Author, *Kalaupapa: A Collective Memory*

2744 Lower Lake Road
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

February 13, 2022

Brian Taniguchi, Chairperson
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Hearing: Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 225

In support of SB3338 – Relating to The Kalaupapa Memorial

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

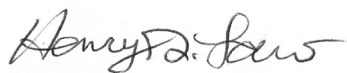
I strongly support SB3338 that will fund the construction of the The Kalaupapa Memorial. I first visited Kalaupapa in 1977 as an historical architect. I was part of a month long effort to review the condition of some 400 structures and buildings and make recommendations on repair needs including rough 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. Having lived in the settlement more than 5 years, 3 years of which I was the only NPS employee, I became part of the community. I made several life long friends while living there, most of whom have passed away. 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 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. 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 the road from the chosen site for the Kalaupapa Memorial that has an estimated 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
Historical Photograph Specialist, IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity
hlaw@idealeprosodydignity.org; 315-224-3415

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

Bill Number: SB3338
Monday, February 14, 2022 Conference Room 225 at 3:10 pm

I am writing to your committee in support of SB3338 which provides \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Chair Taniguchi and Committee members,

My name is Cummins Kameeiamoku Mahoe III. I have enjoyed a lifetime of interaction with the Kalaupapa community since the mid-1960s. As a teenager working for an air cargo service on Oahu, I visited Kalaupapa monthly even prior to the lifting of the leprosy isolation policy in 1969. As Postmaster of Kaunakakai Post Office, I jointly conducted a monthly finance audit with Kuulei Bell, the last Patient-Postmistress at Zip Code 96742. Involved in tutoring the Molokai Catholic Youth Ministry in 2009, our group transported Saint Damien's reliquary down the trail for a special post-canonization event. Even after my own retirement in 2009, I would do yard service every Tuesday for the last two long residency Catholic nuns at the Bishop Home for Women, Srs. Theresa Chow and Rose Annette Akuna. Finally, Edwin Lelepali, who conducted the weekly volleyball games, would sponsor my fiancé and I for visitations, which led to our honeymoon in Kalaupapa, in 2012.

As a Vietnam Veteran, when visiting The Wall in Washington, D.C., I can honor by touch, over 58,000 names of fallen soldiers. I will be able to embrace a similar experience, when I visit the Kalaupapa Memorial and am able to honor by touch the inscribed names of the 8,000 Hawaiian citizens who endured prejudice, leprosy stigma, and isolation from family separation, their communities' advocacy for fair treatment, dignity, and respect has benefitted other illness afflicted groups. It is not surprising the Roman Catholic Church has two canonized Saints, Damien De Veuster and Marianne Cope, and has initiated a third possible sainthood for Brother Joseph Dutton. This is the specialty, Kalaupapa, is for their Kalawao County, our State, our Country, and the World.

Again, I am asking for your support, as I support SB3338, for \$5 million for the construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Never a patient or an actual resident of Kalaupapa, I have been privileged and honored to have spent my lifetime with many personal interactions with members of this special community.

Respectfully,

Cummins Kameeiamoku Mahoe III
Retired Kaunakakai Postmaster, 96748

*Sister Alicia Damien Lau
15 Bishop Home #129
PO 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: SB3338
Hearing: February 14, 2022, 3:10 p.m.
Conference Room 325,
Hawai`i State Capitol

I write in support of SB3338, 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 the Department of Health as a volunteer and as a part-time employee of The Pacific Historic Parks Bookstore.

I am writing in strong support of SB 3338 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 SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

Sister Alicia Damien Lau, OSF
Sisters of St Francis of the Neumann Communities

email: adlau@sosf.org

February 14, 2022

Brian T Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Bill SB3338 – February 14, 2022, Room 225 3:10 pm

I write IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB3338, funding \$5 million for construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial

My name is Ellen Christine Storm. I am a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. My husband, Rev Dr Lon Rycraft was the Protestant minister in Kalaupapa for Kana'ana Hou and Siloama churches (UCC) from 1993 to 2005. Living in Kalaupapa for almost 12 years gave us a unique experience and perspective. Siloama Church is located just across Damien Road from the site where the Memorial will be constructed.

The residents of Kalaupapa are survivors in the deepest sense. They were able to move beyond the pain, the suffering, the sadness in ways that are examples of strength and inspiration to all of us. **They are the true heroes.**

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is requesting that the Hawaii State Legislature allocate \$5 million for construction of the Memorial. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is also raising \$5 million for an endowment to make sure that the Memorial is maintained and cared for in perpetuity and to sustain its highly successful community outreach programs—the Restoration of Family Ties and the Legacy Names projects.

The Kalaupapa Memorial will remember and honor all of the people by their name. The Memorial will return the names to the history that they helped create.
It will serve as a symbol of justice.

The Memorial will help family members find healing and closure. It will be a living Memorial as future generations visit and learn about ancestors they might not have known about. Keeping alive the important history of Kalaupapa and preserving the legacies of the thousands of men, women and children who were forcibly isolated there.

Thank you for all for your work on Senate Bill 3338. Thank you for your support to provide funding for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Storm
February, 14, 2022

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture and The Art Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Bill Number: SB3338

February 12, 2022

Hearing: Monday, Feb 14, 2022 Conference Room 225, Hawai'i State Capitol

I write in strong SUPPORT of SB3338, funding \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial construction

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 as an architect in developing the conceptual design for an historically very important memorial such as this 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 of the memorial and I strongly believe that it was divinely inspired as a result of my prayer. When we arrived at the very site where the memorial is to be constructed, I verbally presented the design among the members of the Committee and Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. They all happily accepted the design. Since then, the design has been used as the project vision and to promote the project and now developed into construction document. Please see enclosed renderings.

The concept is composed of two circles: Mauka circle representing the 8000 people with Hansen's disease who were sent away to Kalaupapa and Makai circle representing the family who were left behind. The two circles were pulled and juxtaposed together at the middle. The juxtaposition represents one of the main purposes of the memorial: that is to reconnect the families who were separated forever.

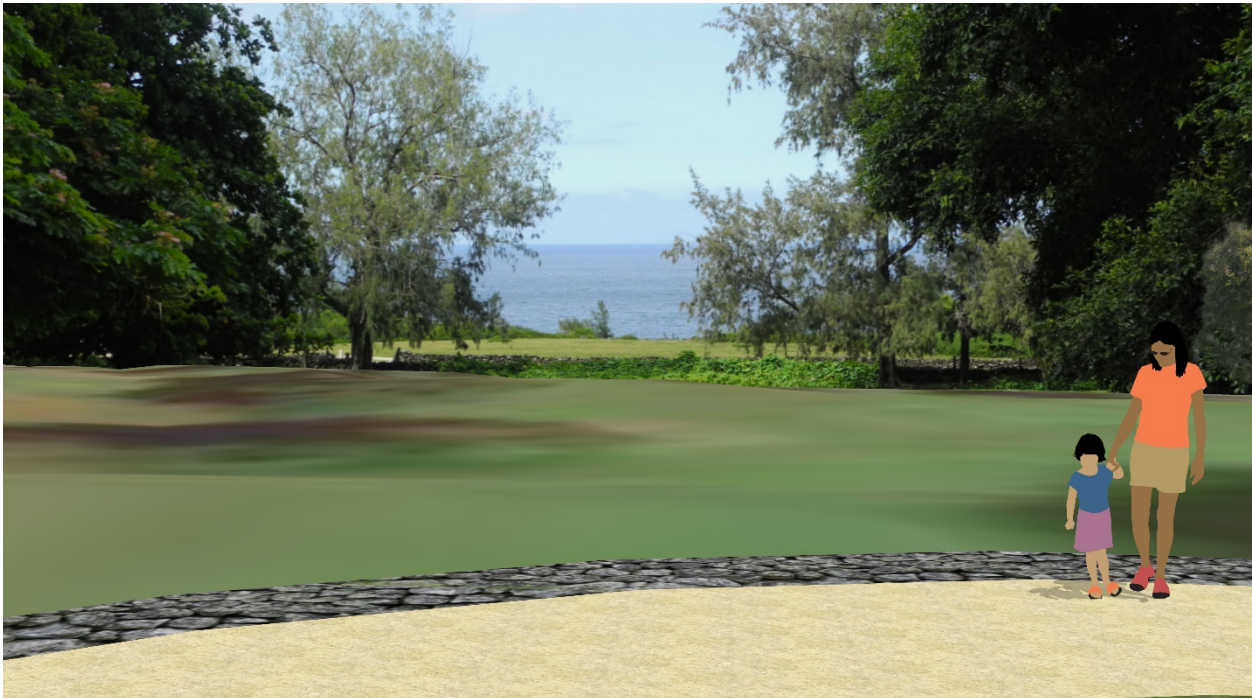
There will be a stone wall surrounding Mauka circle as if embracing the circle. It will have the names of the 8000 patients to be inscribed onto it to celebrate and memorialize their lives.

I believe it is important for our generations to memorialize these people and their families as well as the place. Therefore we humbly ask for your support of SB3338 to provide funding of \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

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

Enclosure: Renderings





February 12, 2022

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman

Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee, Hawai`i State Legislature Honolulu, Hawai`I 96813

Bill Number: SB3888

Hearing: February 14, 2022, 3:10 p.m. Room 225 Hawai`i State Capitol

I write IN SUPPORT of SB3338 funding \$5 million for the construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial

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

My name is Marilyn Cleghorn. 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 resident 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, which included stories of great accomplishments.

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. This is a wonderful project that the residents of Kalaupapa founded and continue, along with their descendants and long-time friends, continue to foster.

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 Ka '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.

Please lend your support to SB3338 for the funding to construct the Kalaupapa Memorial, which will honor all the brave Hawaii citizens from every inhabited island in our State who sacrificed so much for the benefit of those they left behind in their respective communities. Mahalo

Sincerely,

Marilyn Puanani Janssen Cleghorn

P.O. Box 359, Kula, HI 96790

(808)878-6170

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

Bill Number: SB3338
Monday, February 14, 2022 – Conference Room 225

I write in support of SB3338, funding \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial construction.

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

My name is Monica Bacon and I am a great-grandniece of Ambrose Kanewali'i Hutchison, the younger and only brother of my great-grandfather, William Kalewalani Hutchison. As a young man Uncle Ambrose was taken from his family on O'ahu and compelled to reside at Kalaupapa, Moloka'i, where he lived for 53 years from January 5, 1879 to his death on July 17, 1932.

My great-great-grandfather, Dr. Ferdinand W. Hutchison, and his Native Hawaiian wife, my great-great-grandmother Malie Moea, had three children during the early to mid-1850's: William K. Hutchison, Christina U. Hutchison, and Ambrose K. Hutchison. My great-grandfather, William Hutchison, is the only one of the three Hutchison children with descendants, therefore me, my mother, siblings, and my cousins are the only family who carry on the memory of Uncle Ambrose. In June of 2008 I was able to visit Kalaupapa for the first time, and it was an eye-opening and emotional experience. Through Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa I was able to learn most of what I now know about the remarkable life my ancestor lived at Kalaupapa. Our family is fortunate to have a gravesite to visit at Kalaupapa which includes my uncle's wife who passed away before him, but Ambrose himself isn't listed on the gravestone along with his wife's name. Through the walls of the Memorial, it will finally be possible to see his name and the names of the thousands of other patients before, during, and after his time at the Kalaupapa settlement.

I strongly support SB3338 to provide \$5 million in funding for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial. It is proper, it is *pono*, that we remember in this permanent way those whose lives were profoundly changed by a disease that inflicted physical pain and, due to the separation of families, emotional pain as well. The memorial will provide a place not only for the public to visit, reflect, and learn about (and learn lessons from) a traumatic chapter in Hawaii's history, but also for the families of patients to gain some closure knowing that their 'ohana has not been forgotten.

Please support SB3338 to provide funding for The Kalaupapa Memorial.

Respectfully,

Monica K. Bacon, great grandniece of Ambrose Kanewali'i Hutchison – email: mkb425@nyu.edu

February 10, 2022

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

SB3338: Providing \$5 million for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial
Monday, February 14, 3:10 p.m., Room 325

I write in strong support of SB3338

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

My name is Pauline Ahulau Chow. I have been a resident of Kalaupapa for 60 years. Three of my sisters who were sent to Kalaupapa before me are buried there.

The Kalaupapa Memorial is very important to me. I hope you help us make it happen.

I was a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2003. Ka 'Ohana was the idea of Bernard Punikai`a, one of the great leaders of our people. That first meeting of Ka 'Ohana brought together Kalaupapa patients, family members and our friends who often visit. It was an exciting time of knowing we could make a difference together -- and knowing that our families and friends would carry on for us in the future.

Since 2008, I have served on the Board of Directors of Ka 'Ohana; in 2009 I was elected as Vice President and have served in that office ever since.

It was at the first 'Ohana meeting in 2003 when we all decided that the Kalaupapa Memorial should be a priority of our new organization. We have been working on plans for the Memorial ever since. We are now looking at construction of the Memorial and truly hope this Committee will support this funding to honor and remember all the people of Kalaupapa who had to leave our

families to make new lives for ourselves.

I especially want to see the names of all the people who went before me, people who suffered far greater than I did. Many of those people never saw their families again. I also want to see the names of my sisters and other Ahulau 'ohana; the name of my late husband and the names of so many of my friends who have died at Kalaupapa.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share my thoughts. I want to be able to attend the dedication of The Kalaupapa Memorial and see all of these names for myself.

Mado,
Pauline Chao

February 11, 2022

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senate Bill Number: SB3338
Monday, February 14, 2022 – Conference Room 225, 3:10pm

I am testifying in Support of SB3888 to provide \$5 million for the Kalaupapa Memorial Construction

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

My name is Velda Napua Akamua, past President of the Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club

Mahalo for your time and attention to our kuleana. The Kohala Hawaiian Civic Club is 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 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 choice 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...
895-7345

February 13, 2022

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

Bill Number SB3338
Conference Room 225

Writing IN SUPPORT of SB3338, for the \$5 million construction funding for the Kalaupapa Memorial.

Aloha Chair , Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee.

My name is Tim Leong. I am a resident of Molokai and am writing in support of SB3338 to provide funding for the construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

On February 14, 1888, my great-great grandfather, Kaho'oilimoku and his thirteen year old son, Alapa'i, were sent to Kalaupapa. They were reunited with another son, fourteen year old Ka'aea, who had been sent on January 30, 1888. They died within a span of four years and were buried in unmarked graves. They started their lives in Kawaipapa, Maui and ended their lives in Kalaupapa, Molokai: exchanging the Wai (fresh water) for the Lau (leaf).

It wasn't until I was in my 60's that I found out I had family that were sent to Kalaupapa. In our household, genealogy was the domain of the women. Nothing was written. My mother, aunts and older sister would sometimes gather after dinner, to "talk-story" about our ancestors, over cups of tea and dessert. I found out later that family stories could have contradicting versions, outlandish embellishments and convenient omissions. In 2010, I became a member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and was able to get confirmation that I had three family members that were sent to Kalaupapa. This led me on an amazing journey to the Hawaii State Archives, the Bureau of Conveyances and worldwide web to fill in the missing pieces.

Kaho'oilimoku was granted 18 acres in Kawaipapa, Hāna, Maui in 1855. He was an awa grower and with his wife raised a family of one daughter and four sons. In 1888, he and two of his sons were diagnosed with leprosy and were sent to Kalaupapa. He was an Elder of Kanaana Hou Church.

Kaho'oilimoku died on June 14, 1890. He was 57 years old.

Alapa'i died on September 10, 1891. He was 16 years old.

Ka'aea died on January 27, 1892. He was 18 years old.

As a tribute to my great-great grandfather, Kaho'oilimoku, his children and to all the many other Hawaiian citizens throughout the islands who sacrificed so much for the benefit of others, I respectfully request your support for SB3338 to provide funding for the construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Leong, Molokai

A last thought to share: Upon completion on my testimony on Sunday, I experienced a chicken skin moment when I realized that the hearing is tomorrow February 14, 2022. Kaho'oilimoku was sent to Kalaupapa on February 14, 1888. It will be exactly 134 years.

Aloha and Howdy from Texas.

I am writing in support of Hawaii SB 3338, designed to remember my 8,000+ brothers and sisters who passed away after numerous years on the island of Molokai. These individuals, many of whom I met during the last three decades, after they themselves were isolated from family for many more than three decades, were deemed the enemies of the state, but had names with a corresponding life, and not criminals.

My interest in SB 3338 is because I too was isolated, for seven years, at the national leprosarium in Carville, LA. Additionally, I was fortunate to have traveled the world with one of the most famous former residents of Kalaupapa, Bernard Punikai. Bernard and I traveled throughout the U.S, China, Italy, Switzerland, Japan, and Spain, to name of few countries. We advocated for the end to discrimination and stigma against those of us who experienced Hansen's disease. This stigma, an act of labeling, rejection and unexplained fear of a person, is accompanied by horrible Biblical type images.

Another reason for my support is the I am now the Editor of The Star, an international publication started by another former resident of the leprosarium in Carville. The publication is dedicated to "radiating the truth about Hansen's disease." And the truth about the Kalaupapa Memorial is that the souls of 8,000+ individuals cannot be resurrected, but their names and history can serve as an attack on the war against stigma.

Finally, as a licensed clinical social worker, I am familiar with the trauma that continues to live in the lives of Kalaupapa ancestors. We all need a permanent monument to commence the healing that 8,000+, and millions of others throughout the world, were unable to achieve.

Please consider my comments in support of SB 3338 as coming from the heart, as I have loved all of my brothers and sisters.

Jose Ramirez, Jr., LCSW-S
3810 Drummond St,
Houston, TX 77025
joeramirezjr@hotmail.com
832-970-6060

February 13, 2022

Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman, Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee,
State of Hawaii Legislature ,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Senate Bill Number: SB3338 , Hearing: February 14, 2022, 3:10 p.m.

I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB3338 and the funding of \$5 million for The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara 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. I currently serve as a Board member and as Secretary of Ka 'Ohana. I have also had the privilege of representing Santa Claus at Kalaupapa annual Christmas party for over a quarter of a century.

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 9 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 in this message. You are among the bravest people of whom I know."*

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 six such awards the organization has bestowed on the 'Ohana for its work historic preservation work 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

SB-3338

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 5:39:19 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/14/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Lapilio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon, Senators and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and Arts. Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 3338 for funding of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

My great-grandfather, Bonepake Lapilio, was sent to Kalaupapa in 1889 at the age seven with his sister, Mary. My great-grandfather lived long enough to be found free of leprosy in 1909 and by the time he left Kalaupapa in 1917, he had married and with my great-grandmother, Louisa Lui, had seven children. They lived challenging but full lives. In contrast, my great-grand aunt, Mary died in Kalaupapa a few years after arriving.

My family knows where my great-grandfather and great-grandmother are buried. He is buried at Diamond Head Memorial Park on Oahu. She is buried in Kalaupapa. While we can visit Bonepake often, our visits to Louisa Lui are less so. We have no idea where aunt Mary rests.

The Kalaupapa Memorial provides a way for her to be remembered. There are thousands of others sent to Kalaupapa who are in the same situation. There are people who were sent to Kalaupapa by a misguided government policy that forced them from families, friends and communities that loved them. They will be forgotten unless we build this memorial to etch their names as a testament and a reminder for us and for future generations. We owe them this.

Please support SB3338. Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Senator Brian T Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Labor, Culture and The Arts Committee
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB3338: Relating to The Kalaupapa Memorial
2022

Hearing: Monday, February 14, 2022, 3:10 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

I write in support of SB3338, Requests that the State Legislature allocate funding for construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chairman Richard H.K. Onishi, and Chairman Aaron Ling Johanson
And Members of Tourism and International Affairs and Labor & Public
Employment Committee's

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 SB2796-SD1 which would fund 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 connection for descendants who will find healing and pride as they are surrounded by the names. It is for the generations of those to come to never forget.

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 was forcibly separated from their families because of the government's isolation policies regarding people affected by leprosy. Fewer than 1,000 of those sent to Kalaupapa have marked graves. Ka 'Ohana has developed a fundraising strategy also raising \$5 million for an endowment to make sure the Memorial is maintained and cared for in perpetuity.

There is little doubt that the Kalaupapa Memorial and use, will improve the long neglected historic site in many ways. This has been acknowledged by the stakeholders at Kalaupapa including state and federal agencies and owners of the two historic churches located next to the Memorial site.

On behalf of the 'Ohana, I respectfully request that you as Commissioners use your discretion and good judgment and assume the responsibility of issuing our 'Ohana the favorable decision we are seeking.

My Family the Brede's and Apio's, humbly ask for your support of SB2796-SD1 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

Friend of Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise

ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com

Representative Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman
Labor, Culture & the Art Committee

LATE

Bill Number: SB 3338 Memorial Funding

Thursday, February 24, 2022, Conference Room 325

I write in SUPPORT of SB 3338 Funding \$5 Million for Construction of The Kalaupapa Memorial

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and members of the Labor, Culture & the Art Committee:

My name is Patricia Leilani Shimomoto, 3x great granddaughter of John Ernstberger, a German immigrant, who lived at Kalaupapa from his admission on October 18, 1868 until his death on January 3, 1875. As family members of one of the earliest residents of Kalaupapa, my family and I (mother – Harriet Roselani Paresa Veneri – and sisters – Glorianne Katherine Garza and Lisa Marie Veneri Stewart) strongly support the proposal put forth by the Board of Directors of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa to construct a memorial in honor of the 8000 men, women & children who lived and died there.

With the help of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, our family was able to piece together the story of John Ernstberger, who made his living as a blacksmith at Kalaupapa where he resided with his Hawaiian wife Luka & youngest son Peter. I find it difficult to imagine the hardships they endured at the time, especially since the settlement had been established in 1866, only 2 years prior to their arrival. As exiles, I’m sure they had no choice but to make the best of their lives at Kalaupapa, but how sad they must have been to separate from their older children living on Maui & Oahu. One of the saddest realizations I had during our visit was learning that most of the people who died there, including my 3X great grandfather, are not even buried in properly marked graves; instead, due to the sheer numbers, most were laid to rest in mass graves in the great field next to St. Damien’s Church. Although we were grateful to visit Kalaupapa in November 2015 and to pay homage at the ahu, construction of a permanent memorial would surely be a fitting tribute to our ancestors who lived and died at Kalaupapa.

I humbly ask for your support of SB3338 to fund the Kalaupapa Memorial. Mahalo for your consideration!

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Shimomoto
99-152 Waipao Place
Aiea, HI 96701
pattyshimo@outlook.com