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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS  
and  
JUDICIARY

Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
10:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1432, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO CHANGES TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CONCERNING PATIENTS, THE COUNTY OF KALAWAO, AND THE KALAUPAPA  
SETTLEMENT.

Senate Bill 1432, Senate Draft 1 proposes several measures to address the continued and immediate treatment of Hansen's disease patients as well as the long-term management needs of managing natural and cultural resources at Kalaupapa. Additionally, it will reunite Kalawao County with the County of Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The proposed measure recognizes the historic and cultural significance of Kalaupapa and commemorates those resources by establishing the Kalaupapa State Historical Area. Kalaupapa has been identified by the United States Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark, the nation's highest recognition for historic resources. It is also listed in the Hawaii and National Registers of Historic Places. The recognition of Kalaupapa as a State Historical Area is appropriate for the long-term preservation and use of the settlement and the historic and cultural resources located throughout the peninsula.

Furthermore, the County of Maui has established its own historic preservation program and has been recognized as a Certified Local Government through the National Park Service. The County of Maui and the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission will be an important partner in continuing to preserve, protect, and share the important history of Kalaupapa and its patients.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**LATE**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 1432 SD1  
RELATING TO KALAUPAPA**

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 26, 2025

10:05 am

Room 211

Aloha e Chairs Rhoads, and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1432 SD1, which seeks to establish the Kalaupapa State Historical Area, ensure the continued provision of services to Hansen's disease patients, and plan for the transition of Kalaupapa Settlement upon the passing of its last patient resident.

**The future of Kalaupapa is of great interest to the residents of Moloka'i, especially Native Hawaiian families who had 'ohana exiled to Kalaupapa.** Of the estimated 8,000 Hawaii citizens sent to Kalaupapa, 90% were Native Hawaiian. OHA has officially recognized and commended the work of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa to reunite families separated due to Hansen's disease. OHA supports this measure's continued incorporation of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa into planning efforts around the future management of Kalaupapa.

**SB1432 SD1 provides an important opportunity to commemorate and preserve the legacy of Kalaupapa through the establishment of the Kalaupapa State Historical Area and to include community stakeholders in the planning process.** OHA believes that creating a State Historical Park is consistent with the established National Historical Park and Memorial that have already been recognized and declared with the support of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa. OHA's Board of Trustees has also recognized the National Historical Park and Memorial<sup>1</sup> as appropriate uses of ceded lands given the strong significance of this area to the families most directly affected by the historical use of this area, and a State Historical Park is consistent with these uses.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Recognizing the Sacred Āina of Kalaupapa National Historical Park and Kalawao County by Honoring the Kalaupapa Memorial and the Unwavering Efforts of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa; Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa, Accessed 24 Feb. 2025, [https://www.kalaupapaohana.org/\\_files/ugd/feb9f8\\_183fc9b954bc46d495aebfbd1ee94002.pdf](https://www.kalaupapaohana.org/_files/ugd/feb9f8_183fc9b954bc46d495aebfbd1ee94002.pdf).

OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB1432 SD1. This measure provides an essential framework for honoring Kalaupapa's history while fostering a transparent, inclusive, and respectful transition process that aligns with the interests of Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.