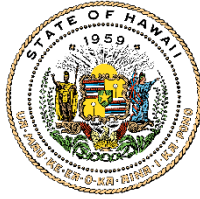


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on  
HEALTH

Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00 AM

House Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

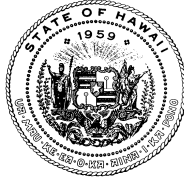
In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1432, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO CHANGES TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CONCERNING PATIENTS, THE COUNTY OF KALAWAO, AND THE KALAUPAPA  
SETTLEMENT

Senate Bill 1432, Senate Draft 2 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.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB1432 SD2  
RELATING TO CHANGES TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CONCERNING PATIENTS, THE COUNTY OF KALAWAO, AND THE KALAUPAPA SETTLEMENT  
REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Hearing Date: March 12, 2025 @ 9:00 am

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure does not in itself have fiscal implications. However, the  
2 Department of Health ("Department") has submitted operating requests to fund staff to  
3 maintain structures and CIP requests for important projects at Kalaupapa.

4 **Department Position:** The Department provides comments on the current version of this bill –  
5 SB 1432 SD2 - and requests two amendments. The Department supports the original version of  
6 this bill (SB 1432), disagrees with conditions proposed by the Legislature in the current version  
7 (SB 1432 SD2) and requests amendments to remove those conditions.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health's Communicable Disease and Public Health  
9 Nursing Division (CDPHND), Hansen's Disease Branch is responsible for assuring that care – as  
10 specified in Chapter 326, HRS - is provided at Kalaupapa for those patients that chose to remain  
11 after the Legislature repealed the statute's previous isolation requirements in 1969.

12 In the original version of the bill – SB 1432 – the Department outlined amendments of  
13 appropriate sections of §326 that would be enacted one year after the death of the last  
14 Kalaupapa Registry patient. Upon the death of that last patient, the Department would no  
15 longer have a legal requirement to provide patient care at Kalaupapa. Sections of Chapter 326,  
16 HRS that are not specific to patient care at Kalaupapa, but that apply to the Department's

ongoing role in disease surveillance and the treatment and care of persons with Hansen's Disease throughout the State were retained in the original version of the bill.

The Department requests two amendments of SB 1432 SD2

We recommend deleting Section 1 (4) (page 2, lines 1-9) and Section 26 (page 21, lines 9-20) – which were added in the SD1 and retained in the SD2 - for the following reasons:

- The Department of Health will not have a direct role in managing Kalaupapa Settlement or the county of Kalawao when our role in patient care ends.
- A formal “transition planning team” does not exist. If this section is retained, it will have no effect because there is no such transition planning team.
- The “future” of what will happen at Kalaupapa is currently described in the NPS General Management Plan and the plans of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the future uses of their assigned parcels of land at Kalaupapa. Should Maui County assume jurisdiction over the area, the County's General plan and any specific Community Plan will guide future uses of the area. Opportunities for public engagement regarding the future of the area are already available and guaranteed under existing federal, state and county laws.
- After an amendment by the 32nd Legislature, the Department is already required by statute - section 326 25.5 (11), Hawaii Revised Statutes, – to provide details in our annual report to the Legislature regarding the Department's engagement efforts with Molokai community groups.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1:**

PART I

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the population of former Hansen's disease patients residing at Kalaupapa in the county of Kalawao is aging. There

1 are currently seven individuals on the Kalaupapa registry who receive services  
2 from the State. Four of them are full-time residents at Kalaupapa. All these  
3 patients are age eighty-three years or older.

4 The legislature finds that the county of Kalawao consists of that portion of the  
5 island of Molokai commonly known as the Kalaupapa Settlement and that the  
6 county of Kalawao is under the jurisdiction and control of the department of  
7 health and governed by the laws and rules relating to the department and the  
8 care and treatment of persons affected with Hansen's disease. After the passing  
9 of the last full- or part-time patient resident at Kalaupapa, the department of  
10 health will no longer provide patient care there but intends to complete  
11 environmental remediation work.

12 The legislature further finds that there are many other stakeholders that care  
13 about the future of the Kalaupapa Settlement and the preservation of the  
14 historical, cultural, and environmental significance of the county of Kalawao.  
15 This Act reflects preliminary sentiments expressed by some Maui county  
16 residents that the county of Kalawao be reunited with the county of Maui. A  
17 transparent process and opportunity for more extensive public input regarding  
18 the transfer of jurisdiction and control of Kalawao county is required.

19 Accordingly, the purposes of this Act are to:

20 (1) Prepare for changes of responsibilities of the department of health upon  
21 the passing of the last patient resident of the Kalaupapa Settlement;

22 (2) Commemorate and preserve the historical, cultural, and environmental  
23 significance of the peninsula and its residents in Hawaii's history with the  
24 establishment of the Kalaupapa state historical area; and

25 (3) Provide to the public the opportunity for input on the future of the county  
26 of Kalawao; ~~and~~

1       ~~—(4) Require the department of health, in developing a plan for the permanent~~  
2       ~~transfer of the powers and duties of the department and any other state agency~~  
3       ~~over Kalaupapa Settlement to other governmental or qualified non-~~  
4       ~~governmental entities, to include a community organization in the county of~~  
5       ~~Kalawao that is designated in P.L. 111-11, title VII, section 7108, and a topside~~  
6       ~~community organization from Molokai in the transition planning team.~~

7       **PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2 to SB1432 SD2:**

8               ~~[SECTION 26. The department of health, in developing a plan for the~~  
9       ~~permanent transfer of the powers and duties of the department and any other~~  
10       ~~state agency over Kalaupapa Settlement to other governmental or qualified non-~~  
11       ~~governmental entities, shall include Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa and a topside~~  
12       ~~community organization from Molokai in the transition planning team. The~~  
13       ~~department of health shall select the topside community in consultation with the~~  
14       ~~Molokai community. For purposes of this section, "topside community~~  
15       ~~organization from Molokai" means a community of Molokai outside of the~~  
16       ~~county of Kalawao.]~~

17               SECTION ~~[27]~~26. For the purposes of this Act, "full- or part-time patient  
18       resident of Kalaupapa" means a person who was institutionalized for segregation  
19       by order of the department of health because of Hansen's disease and who  
20       chose to remain at Kalaupapa or Hale Mohalu after June 30, 1969.

21               SECTION ~~[28]~~27. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and  
22       stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

23               SECTION ~~[29]~~28. This Act shall take effect on December 31, 2050; provided  
24       that part II of this Act shall take effect on the one-year anniversary of the passing  
25       of the last full- or part-time patient resident of Kalaupapa as affirmed in the  
26       governor's proclamation, as described in section 25 of this Act.

1 The Department will continue – as has been the practice since 1980 - to transfer our  
2 operational responsibilities to the remaining government organizations that are  
3 designated as landowners and/or have statutory authority for land and operations in  
4 Kalaupapa. The transfer of DOH’s remaining operational responsibilities to NPS will  
5 follow the terms outlined in a Cooperative Agreement with NPS (continuous since 1984)  
6 and “A Strategic Plan for Transition at Kalaupapa Settlement” that was created in 1991.  
7 Many non-patient related responsibilities have already been transferred to the NPS  
8 since 1980.

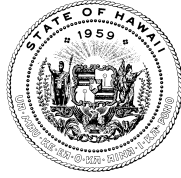
9 This bill does not interfere with the National Park Service’s General Management Plan,  
10 any existing cooperative agreements between the National Park Service and other State  
11 departments, or with the existing land lease between the Department of Hawaiian  
12 Home Lands (DHHL) and National Park Service that expires July 14, 2041.

13 At the request of the Senate committees that previously heard and reviewed this bill,  
14 details, including a timeline, of the Department’s plan to continue transferring  
15 management responsibilities at Kalaupapa were previously submitted for Committee  
16 review.

17 Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o  
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII  
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina  
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
*Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele*

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i*

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
HEARING ON MARCH 12, 2025 AT 9:00AM IN CR 329

**SB 1432, SD 2, RELATING TO CHANGES TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONCERNING PATIENTS, THE COUNTY OF  
KALAWAO, AND THE KALAUPAPA SETTLEMENT.**

March 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the  
Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) takes no position and supports the intent of this bill which 1) establishes the Kalaupapa State Historical Area 2) authorizes the Department of Health to continue providing services statewide to Hansen's disease patients living in the community and 3) repeals sections of chapter 326, Hawaii Revised Statutes, upon the one-year anniversary of the passing of the last patient resident of Kalaupapa as affirmed in the Governor's proclamation, 4) requires the Department of Health to include community organizations in the transition planning team.

The area commonly known or designated as the Kalaupapa Settlement, described in Section 2 of the bill, which proposes a new section to Chapter 6E to create the Kalaupapa state historical area, includes Hawaiian Home Lands. Thus, DHHL recommends that SB1432, SD2, explicitly state that Hawaiian Home Lands, identified by tax map key: 6-1-01:01 located in Kalaupapa, is Hawaiian Home Lands.

Because the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC), as codified in the Hawaii State Constitution, has exclusive land use and zoning authority for HHL, any land designation changes regarding HHL would be subject to HHC approval and beneficiary consultation.

DHHL agrees with the intent of preserving the historical importance of the Kalaupapa Settlement, but believes there may be unintentional jurisdictional implications to DHHL's parcel if it is made part of a state historical area and not clearly delineated.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1432 SD2**  
**RELATING TO KALAUPAPA**

House Committees on Health  
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 12, 2025

9:00 am

Room 329

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Aloha e Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the Committee:

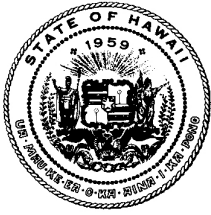
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1432 SD2, which seeks to establish the Kalaupapa State Historical Area, ensure the continued provision of services to Hansen's disease patients, and plan for the transition of Kalaupapa Settlement upon the passing of its last patient resident. This measure provides a necessary framework for an inclusive, transparent, and culturally respectful transition process that recognizes the historical and cultural significance of Kalaupapa while ensuring that Native Hawaiian perspectives are integral to future decision-making.

The land upon which Kalaupapa Settlement sits is part of the ceded lands trust, and any transition of control must recognize the trust responsibilities owed to Native Hawaiians. OHA's engagement in this process would provide critical oversight and advocacy to ensure that future governance, access, and management decisions align with the values and priorities of the Native Hawaiian community. Accordingly, OHA requests that it be formally included in this process given its fiduciary duty to Native Hawaiians, its expertise in land management, and its long-standing commitment to protecting sites of historical and cultural importance. OHA's involvement would help ensure that Native Hawaiian interests, particularly those tied to the preservation of Kalaupapa's legacy and the proper stewardship of ceded lands, are effectively represented.

OHA appreciates the inclusion of community stakeholders in the planning process and echoes concerns raised that the details regarding the permanent transfer of Kalaupapa Settlement must be more transparent and inclusive. The request for the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to submit a preliminary transition plan by 2026 is a step in the right direction. However, we emphasize that meaningful engagement must extend beyond state agencies to include community organizations, 'ohana of Kalaupapa patients, and Native Hawaiian stakeholders at every stage of planning.

SB1432 SD2 provides an important opportunity to commemorate and preserve the legacy of Kalaupapa through the establishment of the Kalaupapa State Historical Area. OHA has long supported efforts to recognize the history of Kalaupapa, including the development of the Kalaupapa Memorial, which will honor the names of over 8,000 individuals sent to Kalaupapa—90% of whom were Native Hawaiian. We urge that the transition process incorporate commitments to the preservation of cultural sites, the memorialization of Kalaupapa's history, and continued public education about the significance of the settlement.

OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SB1432 SD2 with amendments to formally include OHA in the transition planning process and to ensure that Native Hawaiian perspectives are central to all future decisions regarding Kalaupapa Settlement. 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.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

MARCH 12, 2025

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senate Bill 1432 SD2 – Relating to Changes to Responsibilities of the Department of Health Concerning Patients, the County of Kalawao, and the Kalaupapa Settlement

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 1432 SD2 – Relating to Changes to Responsibilities of the Department of Health Concerning Patients, the County of Kalawao, and the Kalaupapa Settlement. This bill establishes the Kalaupapa State Historical Area. It authorizes the Department of Health to continue providing services statewide to Hansen's disease patients living in the community. And it repeals sections of chapter 326, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, upon the one-year anniversary of the passing of the last patient resident of Kalaupapa as affirmed in the Governor's proclamation.

For many decades the Department of Health (DOH) has been responsible for both the patient services at Kalaupapa and much of the physical infrastructure. This bill ensures that the patients continue to receive care from DOH while preparations occur to transfer the physical land and infrastructure to the County of Maui's control. Hawaii has a historical obligation to the residents of Kalaupapa, and this bill ensures those obligations are met.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

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

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

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Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

March 11, 2025

MEMO TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Chair Gregg Takayama and Vice Chair Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy

FROM: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

SUBJECT: **PLEASE DEFER SB1432 SD2 – KALAWAO COUNTY**

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1432 SD2, relating to the changes to responsibilities of the Department of Health concerning patients, the County of Kalawao, and the Kalaupapa Settlement. I respectfully ask that this committee defer this measure for this legislative session.

While I appreciate the Department of Health introducing this measure, the broader Molokai community and our County government have not had the opportunity to fully discuss all the implications related to this bill.

At the end of last year, the state and federal agencies for the first time hosted a meeting on topside Molokai. The purpose of that meeting was to present the history of the agencies' involvement on the Makenalua Peninsula and greater jurisdiction under Kalawao County. The agencies represented at this meeting included the Department of Health, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and National Parks Services.

I happily volunteered to spearhead community meetings after this legislative session. I'm sure our community will be ready to take a position on the proposed action.

Mahalo for your consideration in giving our Molokai community a little more time.



March 11, 2025

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, Health Committee  
and Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

**SB1432-SD2** -- Relating to Changes to Responsibilities of the Department of Health Concerning Patients, the County of Kalawao and the Kalaupapa Settlement

Wednesday, March 12, 9 a.m., Conference Room 329

**I write with comments about SB1432-SD2, regarding the future of Kalaupapa**

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the Health Committee,

Thank you for hearing SB1432-SD2 and giving us the opportunity to learn more about plans for the future of Kalaupapa. Even though government officials have been meeting for many years about this important transition, the public has no knowledge of what is being discussed.

My name is Valerie Monson, Executive Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization created by the residents of Kalaupapa in 2003. Ka 'Ohana was the vision of Bernard Punikai'a, who was taken from his mother when he was just 6 ½ years old and sent to Kalaupapa a few years later in 1942.

As Bernard saw the population of Kalaupapa getting smaller and the community getting older, Bernard felt it was critical to bring together family members, descendants and friends of Kalaupapa to make sure the voices of the Kalaupapa residents were always heard in directing the future and how Kalaupapa would be remembered.

Other residents echoed his concerns and played a key role in laying the foundation of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa nearly 22 years ago. It's important to remember that it was the residents of Kalaupapa -- the patients -- who organized Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa in 2003 to advocate for them, develop educational programs, build The Kalaupapa Memorial, help descendants connect to their ancestors and preserve the history.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been an active participant in the Legislature since we organized -- always taking the chance to meet with lawmakers and update you on conditions at Kalaupapa. Some of you may remember us from hearings last year when a bill about the transition of Kalaupapa was introduced. Ka 'Ohana was advocating to be included as a member of the Kalaupapa Transition Team which now includes only government officials, some of them somewhat new to their positions. We also supported bringing in a community group from upper Molokai because the future of Kalaupapa directly affects them.

We believe that those of us with Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa -- those who had family at Kalaupapa or who have been involved with the Kalaupapa community for many years -- have a great deal of knowledge and experiences that would help this transition team produce a better future. People on upper Molokai also have a wealth of knowledge and must be involved in planning the future of a significant part of their island. Because approximately 1,300 acres of the Kalaupapa peninsula are designated as Hawaiian Homelands, beneficiaries might also request to be included.

Many people will be affected by the future of Kalaupapa.

The Kalaupapa "transition team" has been meeting for many years, yet we hear such conflicting statements about where they're at in the process -- some of these statements are from officials who are members of this team who seem to have a different idea of what has been accomplished.

There are times when we are told that the transition team is still in the early stages of planning the future but we also hear that the decision has already been made: that the National Park Service will have full jurisdiction at Kalaupapa, that the federal government will have complete control of one of Hawaii's most sacred places.

Recently we've also heard that Maui County will assume jurisdiction of Kalaupapa.

What is true? We just don't know. We hope you can find out.

This bill before you states that Kalawao County -- which now comprises the entire Kalaupapa peninsula -- will cease to exist and -- I quote -- "**shall** be and form a portion of Maui County." (emphasis added).

What does Maui County think about this? I attended a Council Committee meeting about this bill a month ago -- and there was a great deal of confusion and a lot of unanswered questions. If Kalawao County "shall" form a part of Maui County, shouldn't we be hearing from Maui County officials -- not just the Department of Health and other state agencies?

Is this Committee aware of the poor condition of the natural environment and houses at Kalaupapa? Because there is little oversight at Kalaupapa and few visitors are allowed, there is little public knowledge about the takeover of the invasive deer (huge herds everywhere, even in

residents' yards, impossible to grow any vegetables or flowers without a fence), proliferating pigs digging in sacred Kalawao, huge stands of invasive trees and weeds blocking once-iconic ocean views -- and no progress on making things better. Many houses in the settlement -- a number of them historic -- are in need of repairs and fresh paint.

In Public Law 96-565 which established Kalaupapa National Historical Park in 1980, Section 109 reads: "At such time when there is no longer a resident patient community at Kalaupapa, the Secretary **shall reevaluate the policies governing the management, administration, and public use of the park** in order to identify any changes deemed to be appropriate." (emphasis added).

How does that federal language fit with this State bill?

The bill before you also proposes creating a "Kalaupapa State Historical Area," which is subject to the State's 6-E process that includes special restrictions. According to the bill, the purpose of this historical area is "to educate the public, to commemorate the lives of the residents with Hansen's disease and the lives of the people who served them, and to recognize the county of Kalawao and its role in the history of Hawaii." How does that impact all these other government responsibilities?

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has been doing all of the above in historical preservation and education for the past 22 years without a special designation.

Our organization has helped nearly 1,000 descendants learn about or learn more about their ancestors -- no one was reaching out to the families and descendants until Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. We have created two traveling exhibits that have been to every island and are currently on display -- one at 'Iolani Palace and the other at the Molokai Museum and Cultural Center -- and we have developed a host of other educational and outreach programs.

We have been presented with *seven* Preservation Awards by Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

And, yet, we have been completely left out of the planning process.

There are so many components to this plan for the future of Kalaupapa, it makes us wonder who would have the final decision: Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Maui County or the lead agency of the Kalaupapa State Historical Area? What will be the role of the State of Hawai'i, of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands?

Will there be independent oversight of these agencies at Kalaupapa by knowledgeable community members to keep the public involved?

Will homesteaders live at Kalaupapa and give the area additional life?

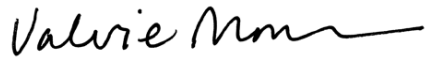
We have many other questions about how the new system at Kalaupapa will work.

If the Health Committee supports this bill, we urge you to also support the amendments included in SB1432-SD2. Four Senate Committees have already supported language to include Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and a community group on upper Molokai to the current decision-making process.

We also believe many discussions need to take place at Kalaupapa and on Molokai before a final decision is made. Please help us -- and help provide Kalaupapa with the proud future it deserves, a future decided by the people who care so deeply about the nearly 8,000 men, women and children who were forcibly isolated there and who care about this important history.

I am unable to attend this hearing in person and thank you for considering my written comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Monson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Monson, Executive Director  
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

March 12, 2025

To: House Committee on Health Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair, and  
Honorable Members

From: DeGray Vanderbilt, Ka 'Ohana Board Member and Legislative Liasion

Re: SB1432 SD2HB RELATING TO HEALTH

Position: Support with suggested amendments to consider.

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Honorable Members of the Committee.

My name is DeGray Vanderbilt, a long-time resident of Molokai for 35 years and former Chair of the Molokai Planning Commission. I currently live on Maui. I am a Board member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization conceived of and fostered by patient residents of Kalaupapa. Kalaupapa residents wanted an ororganization in place consisting of patient residents, their extended ohana and long time friends of the Kalaupapa Community so as their numbers grew small their voices would continue to be heard and the dream they had for the legacy of Kalaupapa would be realized and sustained in perpetuity.

In March of 2009 President Barack Obama signed Public law 111-11 providing Ka 'Ohana Congressional authorization to operate at Kalaupapa. Public Law 111-11 has no sunset date. Ka 'Ohana is one of only six organizations authorized to operate at Kalaupapa by government statute. The other five are all government agencies.

Ka 'Ohana supports the SB1432 SD and appreciates the work of the four Senate Committee put in during their respective hearings on SB1432.

However, I would like to respectfully suggest a couple of amendments for your Committee to consider regarding the the provision in Section 2 regarding an amendment to Chapter 6E Hawaii Revised Statutes and in Section 3 regarding an amendment to Chapter 326, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The amendments proposed are noted in **red type** below and basically replace the references to "shall" with the word "may" so the bill as amended would read:

SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§6E- Kalaupapa state historical area.** (a) There ~~shall~~ **may** be a Kalaupapa state historical area that shall consist of that portion of the island of Molokai known as Kalaupapa, Kalawao, and Waikolu, and commonly known or designated as the Kalaupapa Settlement.

SECTION 3. Chapter 326, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§326- County of Kalawao; cessation; county of Maui.** The county of Kalawao that consists of that portion of the island of Molokai known as Kalaupapa, Kalawao, and Waikolu, and commonly known or designated as the Kalaupapa Settlement ~~shall~~ **may** cease to constitute a county by itself and ~~shall~~ **may** be and form a portion of the county of Maui."

The reason for the proposed amendments is that there have been numerous concerns expressed by various Kalaupapa stakeholders about the impacts of establishing a Kalaupapa state historical area and assuming that it's a given that Kalawao County *shall* form a portion of Maui County. These concerns stem primarily from the fact that there has been no meaningful discussion or due diligence associated with the two issues

By replacing the wording of "shall" with "may", this will remove the absolute wording in the law to provide wording that fosters much needed discussion and due diligence on these major issues.

Mahalo for your consideration and for extending the opportunity for me to testify before you today.

Submitted with much respect for the legislative process and the benefits it provides for the public at large.

*DeGray Vanderbilt*

Gloria L. Marks  
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3675 Kilauea Avenue  
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March 12, 2025

Aloha Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and members of the House Committee on Health

I am Gloria Marks a resident of Kalaupapa now residing at Hale Mohalu in the Leahi Hospital. I am a member of the Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors. I have attached a picture, which means a lot to me. It shows the last three Kalaupapa patient residents on the Ka 'Ohana Board of Directors, Boogie Kahilihiwa, Pauline Chow and me. Both Boogie, who is a past President of Ka 'Ohana and Pauline recently passed away.

I am unable to attend your hearing on Senate Bill 1432, so I am submitting my written testimony. I hope that your Committee supports the amendments to the Bill, which were approved by the Senate WAM committee, especially the ones that called for Ka 'Ohana and a topside Molokai community organization to be included as members of the all government transition planning team that is developing a transition plan for the future management and operations of Kalaupapa when there is no longer a patient community there. These amendments adopted by the WAM Committee are reasonable and presented to highlight the fact that Ka 'Ohana has a Congressional authority to operate at Kalaupapa, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama,

Ka 'Ohana is on the same level as a major Kalaupapa stakeholder as the other five entities, all government agencies, that operate at Kalaupapa by authority given to them by federal or state statute. Yet the Government agencies continue to dismiss Ka 'Ohana, despite the fact that our organization is one conceived and fostered by patient residents of Kalaupapa. Given this fact, Ka 'Ohana certainly must be at the table with government agencies at any future meetings where there is any discussion regarding the future of management and operations at Kalaupapa and its legacy.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide your Committee with my written testimony.

Respectfully submitted



Gloria L. Marks  
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board member.

