

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



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ  
  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, STATE COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
  
**CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

H.B. 458

FEBRUARY 4, 2025, 10:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO BROTHER JOSEPH DUTTON DAY.

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 458.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this bill and wishes to add the following comments for consideration:

1. The interest in the history of Kalaupapa has seen a strong resurgence after generations of disinterest and neglect. Not only are those souls who were exiled to the peninsula to live out the remainder of their lives worth remembering, but so too are those courageous volunteers who risked their own lives in order to bring

comfort and care to the population of Kalaupapa. The efforts of these caregivers to bring a sense of humanity back to the residents of Kalaupapa should be honored and brought back from obscurity

2. Recognition of the efforts of Brother Dutton will provide a unique opportunity for the People of Hawai'i to reflect upon their history, while also increasing awareness and educational opportunities about those who lived at Kalaupapa for both the People of Hawai'i and those visiting our islands.
3. As the Keepers of Public Memory, the State Archives has a rich collection of over one hundred pages of correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and personal journal entries from Brother Dutton. To assist in the education and dissemination regarding the efforts and accomplishments of Brother Dutton, the Public Archives is willing to digitize and place these letters online in order to make them freely, openly accessible from anywhere in the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter

**Brenda R. Duarte  
45-526 Halekou Road  
Kaneohe, HI 96744**

**Testimony on HB 458**

**Chair Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair Rep. Sam Satoru Kong and members of the Committee on Culture and Arts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I strongly support this bill.**

**My name is Brenda R. Duarte a descendant of previous residents of Kalaupapa and patients Frank and Mary Duarte, Richard and Gloria Marks, Eddie Marks and Winifred (Marks) Harada.**

**I also serve on The Joseph Dutton Guild seeking toward the beatification and canonization of Joseph Dutton. I am aware of the impact the lives of Fr. Damien, Mother Marianne and Joseph Dutton had on many of the afflicted and medical personnel of Kalaupapa.**

**Joseph Dutton served in the Union Army for the entire Civil War. After the war he spent more than a year in the psychologically difficult work of disinterring about 6000 hastily buried Union soldiers for reburial in national cemeteries. His life was further marred by a failed marriage, alcoholism and other problems which led to what he called his “degenerate decade.”**

**He vowed to reform, and after hearing about Father Damien he went to Kalaupapa to give the rest of his life in service to the patients. He spent the last 44 years of his life in that service. His story is part of the story of my ancestors’ legacy. I believe this life of service deserves the recognition provided by this bill.**

**I would like to note that in 1929 the Territorial House passed a resolution acknowledging Dutton’s work.**

**I highly recommend the passage of this bill making April 27th annually Brother Joseph Dutton Day.**

**Sincerely,  
Brenda R. Duarte**

February 5, 2025

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
THE JOSEPH DUTTON GUILD TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
CULTURE AND ARTS

FEB. 5, 2025, 10:30 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 309, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 458, RELATING TO BROTHER JOSEPH DUTTON DAY.

Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 458. I am Patrick Boland, representing the Joseph Dutton Guild. The Guild promotes dissemination of Dutton's story and supports his Sainthood Cause.

The Guild supports this bill. The merits of the bill are expressed very well in Section 1 of the bill itself. We note that the bill includes a reference to a 1929 resolution of the Territorial House in acknowledgement and appreciation of Dutton's service. This bill is a logical extension of that legislative precedent.

During the Civil War, Dutton served honorably in the Union Army from 1861 to 1865. After the war he spent more than a year supervising the exhumation of about 6,000 soldiers from battlefield graves for transfer to national cemeteries. He called it "gruesome work." In addition to coping with these traumatic situations he suffered a disastrously failed marriage, alcoholism and other problems. This led to what he later called his "degenerate decade."

Vowing to reform his life, he learned about the work of Father Damien at the Kalaupapa Settlement and in 1886 came to Kalaupapa to dedicate the rest of his life in service to the patients. He remained there, in service, for 44 years. For the first 17 years his primary work was sore-dressing, at which he was an unsurpassed expert. Eventually he assumed management of the Baldwin Home for Boys, which by 1926 had cared for 1,376 boys and men. He maintained this life of service for 44 years, never leaving Kalaupapa, until his health failed at the age of 87 and he was removed to St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu, where he died in 1931.

This extraordinary life of service and dedication deserves the recognition proposed in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Saint Patrick Monastery  
1124 7th Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
February 3, 2025

To: The House Committee on Culture and Arts

Subject: Testimony in support of H.B. 458, Hearing on February 5, 2025

My name is Father William F. Petrie a Catholic Priest who spent 25 years working with Hansen's Disease patients in India. The life of Joseph Dutton impacted the lives of the HD patients just as did Father Damien and Mother Marianne Cope.

Upon returning to Honolulu my assignment was as pastor of Saint Damien church topside Molokai. A former veteran donated a life size marble statue of Joseph Dutton which is a tourist attraction by the many visitors to the Island. His life and work is an inspiration to others. I highly recommend the passage of HB 458.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Father William Petrie

Charles St. Sure  
2499 Kapiolani Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Committee on Culture and the Arts  
Hearing on Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
10:30 am  
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong and members of the committee

In Strong Support of HB 458

First of all, find enclosed a copy of the legislative resolution No. 7 of 1929 that is referenced in the bill.

I would also like to submit additional information on Brother Joseph Dutton which is not reflected in the bill:

- In 2015 the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu took the first official step in a long and complex road to the canonization of Joseph Dutton. Last year the diocese forwarded their findings to the Pope in the Vatican and is awaiting their decision to award Joseph Dutton sainthood.
- Joseph Dutton completes the trifacta along with St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope assuming the duties of administrative assistant at Kalaupapa after St. Damien's passing and overseeing the Baldwin Home for men while St. Marianne cared for the Bishop home for women.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> has double significance as it is not only his birthday, but also the day he was received into the Catholic Church, baptized and changed his name to Joseph, beginning his new life.
- Joseph Dutton is buried next to St. Damien at St. Philomena Church, Kalawao.

Copy.

THE FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY  
OF HAWAII  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Honolulu T.H. Febr. 27. 1929.

Brother Joseph Dutton,  
Baldwin Home,  
Kalawao, Molokai.

Dear Brother,

I have the honor to transmit herewith House Resolution No. 7 which was this day adopted in the House of Representatives of the Territory of Hawaii.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) Ordstein  
Clerk, House of Representatives

*A few days later  
some 20 - headed  
by the Governor -  
made a jolly  
visit at my  
bedside - by  
the fine Crucifix  
- where I have  
received Holy  
Communion  
Every morning  
since Aug. 6,  
last -*

Resolution

Resolved, that this House desires to put on record its appreciation of the great and inspiring service and influence for good, for the splendid and effective service he has rendered in their behalf and for the work done during the past forty years by Brother Joseph Dutton in the settlement of Molokai in his ministrations to the afflicted in Kalawao and Kalapapa; and that the thanks of the House of Representatives be extended to him in this memorial; and be it further  
Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Brother Joseph Dutton.

*J. J. J.*

The House of Representatives of the  
Territory of Hawaii.

Honolulu T.H. Febr. 27. 1929.

We hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was this day adopted in the House of Representatives of the Territory of Hawaii.

(Signed) Souder  
Speaker, House of Representatives

(Signed) Ordstein  
Clerk, House of Representatives

