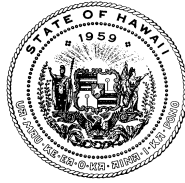


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 697 SD1
RELATING TO KALAUPAPA MONTH**

SENATOR CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/17/2021

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The department supports SB 697 designating the month of January as
- 3 "Kalaupapa month."
- 4 The department supports this bill because of its great significance to the people of Hawaii, in
- 5 recognition of the sacrifices many individuals made during its history and the legacy that endures
- 6 as an important part of Hawaii's history. Notably, January was the month when the first twelve
- 7 Hansen's disease patients arrived on the peninsula, as well as the birth month of Saint Damien,
- 8 Saint Marianne, and Mr. Ambrose Hutchison, who was the first Kalaupapa superintendent as
- 9 well as a patient.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.
- 11 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

March 14, 2021

To: Representative Cedric Gates, Chair
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

From: Joseph Lapilio, Executive Director
Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa

Re: Support for SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month and Request for Amendments

Good morning, my name is Joseph Lapilio. I am the Executive Director of Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa, an organization founded by patient residents of the Kalaupapa community and formally registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2003.

I am proud to share that I am a direct descendent of Bonepake Lapilio and Louisa Lui, both of whom sent to Kalaupapa as young children, later met, married, and had seven children there. Bonepake and Louisa are my great grandparents. I like to think I am here today to speak on their behalf and in support and recognition of the more than 8,000 people who went to Kalaupapa between 1866 and 1969.

Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa is asking the Legislature to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i so that it will be observed annually.

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

Kalaupapa Month would be an opportunity to acknowledge and remember the people who were sent to Kalaupapa. Many of us see these people as victims of a disease, exiled, forsaken, isolated from their families and the lives they knew. It is a lesson of politics based on fear looks like - a reminder that policy decisions have real life consequences. And the photos of Kalaupapa residents during that time focuses us on the pain and suffering of people and the people they left behind in the homes in which they once lived.

There are two other reasons establishing Kalaupapa Month would be important.

The first is using Kalaupapa Month as a reminder of the social justice issues we face. Just as we learned with COVID 19, some communities, whether because of ethnicity, income, social status, or education assume a disproportionate share of the negative impacts of the ills we face.

And second, Kalaupapa is a testament to the strength of the human spirit. The first 12 people who arrived in Kalaupapa in 1866, had no support from the government and, if not for the aloha of the original inhabitants of Kalaupapa faced terrible odds. It is a story that despite the odds, the

people sent to Kalaupapa moved beyond the labels, made friends, started families, and built a community.

The people of Kalaupapa today are viewed not only as valuable members of society, but as some of the finest citizens in Hawai`i who have overcome the most difficult of circumstances and have much to teach the rest of the world. In the words of Mercy Hutchison Bacon, the great niece of Kalaupapa leader Ambrose Hutchison, the people of Kalaupapa are, "the pride of a nation."

With the passing of Uncle Boogie Kahilihiwa two weeks ago, there are now only 11 people left today who are patient residents of Kalaupapa. They are getting older and it is harder for them to attend meetings such as this to share their voice. Just last year, the Ohana's President, Uncle Boogie Kahilihiwa, was here to speak on behalf of this proposal. Today he cannot.

It is no longer possible for him and the other kupuna to speak out and make sure we remember. Kalaupapa month is going to make sure we do that.

We respectfully request your Committee's support of SB697 SD1 with our proposed amendments. These amendments are included on the attached material and include the following:

Page 1, Lines 8 through 15. This was included in the bill after its hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee and was not discussed at the hearing or with anyone from the `Ohana. We feel it places too much of an emphasis on the disease and the bill is our attempt to highlight on the strengths of the Kalaupapa residents. We ask for it to be deleted.

Page 2, Lines 6 through 8. This was also added after the hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The `Ohana supports this addition but there is a correction. The name Lapaka, should be corrected to Lakapu.

On page 5, after line 6, we ask that reference to the United Church of Christ deleted in SD1 by the Senate Judiciary Committee be reinstated. This amendment would add to the bill by listing one of the events that did take place in January, thereby giving additional credence to the reason January should be chosen as Kalaupapa month.

On page 5, after line 14, the `Ohana would like to add a section recognizing the US Government's involvement at Kalaupapa by designating Kalaupapa a National Historic Landmark and then establishing Kalaupapa a National Historic Park in 1980 to recognize and preserve the history of the peninsula and support the remaining residents.

In concert with this amended language, the `Ohana is respectfully requesting the CAI Committee to give like recognition to the U.S. Government's passing a public law to authorize the `Ohana to operate at Kalaupapa, one of only two entities to receive such authorization from the U.S. government...the other being National Park Service.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KALAUPAPA MONTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the month of January is significant in the history of Kalaupapa on the island of Moloka'i.

In 1865, the Kingdom of Hawai'i passed "An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy", which required the Board of Health to "cause to be isolated and confined . . . all leprous patients who shall be deemed capable of spreading the disease of leprosy." **Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is an infection caused by *mycobacterium leprae*, a slow-growing bacteria, that can affect the nerves, skin, eyes, and lining of the nose, and if left untreated can result in the crippling of hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness. Though it is now known that leprosy does not spread easily and there is effective treatment, for many years it was feared as a highly contagious and devastating disease. (See Note 1).** Accordingly, to prevent the spread of leprosy, the Kingdom bought eight hundred acres of land on the remote Kalaupapa peninsula of Moloka'i to forcibly remove from the general population individuals believed to have leprosy.

On January 6, 1866, twelve citizens of Hawai'i arrived at Kalaupapa, the first of an estimated eight thousand people who were taken from their families and forced into isolation. These first twelve women and men were **J. N. Loe, Kahauliko, Liilii, Puha, Kini, Lono, Waipio, Kainana, Kaaumoana, Nahuina, Lapaka, and Kepihe.** (**'Ohana supports with name correction See Note 5**)

The original inhabitants of Kalaupapa played a critical role in helping these leprosy patients who faced tremendous difficulties. If not for their kindness and compassion, life would have been far worse for those who had been banished to the peninsula. The government provided very little support or supplies to the early settlement of isolated leprosy patients, including no doctor or hospital, and expected the patients to be self-sufficient.

The peak of leprosy in Hawai'i came in the 1880s, when more than one thousand individuals lived at Kalaupapa. As the settlement grew and became overcrowded, the government ordered the original inhabitants to leave the land they had occupied for generations. The last of the original inhabitants of Kalaupapa were evicted in January 1895, a year after the Republic of Hawai'i was established.

The legislature further finds that Hale Mohalu, a collection of World War II barracks on eleven acres of land at the edge of Pearl City, Oahu, was converted into a treatment center for leprosy patients registered at Kalaupapa and became a "second home" for many of its patients. Since the 1950s, state officials had let Hale Mohalu fall into disrepair, and in 1978,

the State began relocating patients to Leahi Hospital, its designated Honolulu treatment center. On January 26, 1978, eight residents of Hale Mohalu were relocated to Leahi Hospital against their wishes. Twelve others refused to leave and remained behind, including Bernard Punikai'a, Clarence Naia, and Frank and Mary Duarte. This began a nearly six year occupation of Hale Mohalu by these residents, who together with their supporters, protested policies imposed by the then governor and board of health. Punikai'a, Naia, and several of their supporters were arrested on September 21, 1983, when the buildings of Hale Mohalu were bulldozed.

The legislature additionally finds that two key individuals who committed their lives to serving those affected by leprosy also share significant dates in the month of January.

On January 3, 1840, Jozef De Veuster was born in Belgium. He later joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Known as Father Damien, he was ordained in Honolulu. Father Damien arrived at Kalaupapa in 1873 and spent sixteen years of his life caring for the people of Kalaupapa, ministering to them, building houses, churches, and tending to their medical needs, until his death at age 49 in 1889. He was canonized by the Catholic Church as Saint Damien of Moloka'i in 2009.

On January 23, 1838, Barbara Koob was born in Germany. She later became a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York, and eventually became known as Mother Marianne Cope. She was a respected health administrator and answered the

call of King Kalākaua and Queen Kapi'olani to help people affected by leprosy in Hawai'i. She spent thirty years at Kalaupapa, supervising the Bishop Home for Single Women and Girls and serving as a leader in the community. She was canonized by the Catholic Church as Saint Marianne in 2012.

Many of the people banished to Kalaupapa became great leaders of the community. On January 5, 1879, Ambrose Kanewalii Hutchison arrived at Kalaupapa where he lived for the next fifty-three years. He served as resident superintendent for a total of ten years, from 1884 to 1894, the longest of any other person facing the challenges of leprosy.

The legislature further finds that since 2014, on the fourth Sunday of January, the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ (HUCC) observes "Kalaupapa Sunday", wherein HUCC churches across Hawai'i remember the people of Kalaupapa, particularly the thirty-five men and women who founded Siloama Church less than six months after the first leprosy patients were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866. (Reinstate language that was in SB697 -See Note 2)

In 1946, leprosy patients in Hawai'i began being treated with sulfone drugs which meant they did not need to be isolated from others. Forced isolation at Kalaupapa ended in 1949 though it took until 1969 for the State's policy to officially end. In 1976, Kalaupapa was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. government and then the Kalaupapa National Historic Park was established in 1980 to recognize and preserve the history of the peninsula and support the remaining residents.

(Support amended language inserted by Sen. Judiciary Committee -
See Note 3)

In 2003, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa ('Ohana) was formed by many of the remaining residents of Kalaupapa, their extended 'ohana and descendants and long-time friends of the community, who felt that as the residents' numbers grew smaller, they needed an organization to ensure their voices would continue to be heard. The U.S. government approved the Kalaupapa Memorial Act of 2009, which was signed into law on March 30, 2009 by President Barack Obama, making the 'Ohana only the second organization, besides National Park Service, to be authorized by the U.S. government to operate at Kalaupapa.

Designating January as Kalaupapa Month for the state legislature to consider was proposed by the 'Ohana. (In concert with above paragraph 'Ohana requests consideration for this amended language -

See Note 4)

The legislature finds that the people of Kalaupapa today are viewed as valuable members of society who are some of Hawai'i's finest citizens having overcome the most difficult of circumstances. Mercy Hutchison Bacon, great niece of Kalaupapa leader Ambrose Hutchison, called the people of Kalaupapa "the pride of a nation".

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish January of each year as "Kalaupapa Month" to serve as an annual reminder to people all over of the importance of Kalaupapa and the

significant sacrifices and contributions made by its residents throughout the history of Hawai'i.

SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§8- Kalaupapa Month. The month of January shall be known and designated as "Kalaupapa Month", to serve as an annual reminder to people all over of the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant sacrifices and contributions made by its residents throughout the history of Hawaii. This month is not and shall not be construed as a state holiday."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

Kalaupapa Month

Description:

Designates January as "Kalaupapa Month". (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

NOTES

Note 1: This is an amendment inserted by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The 'Ohana would respectfully request that this emphasize on the details of the disease leprosy be removed. It was not in the initial Bill which was the residents approved the final language of in the initial draft of SB697. The residents have long been wanting to be recognized as people like the rest of us and be acknowledged for their accomplishments instead of being associated with a disease.

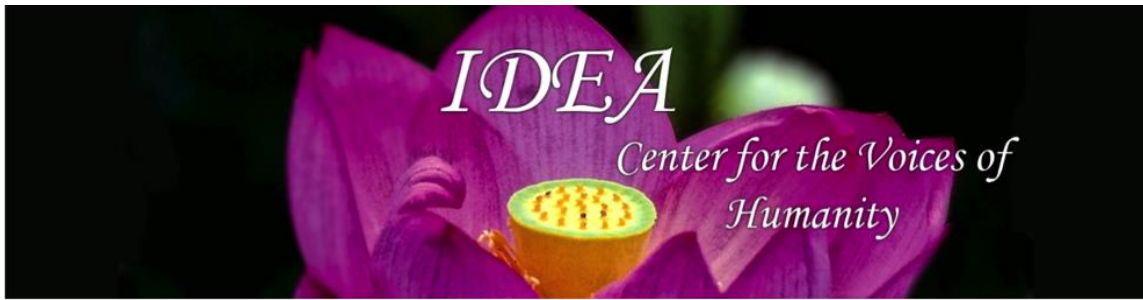
Note 2: This is language in the original SB697 Bill that was deleted as an amendment made by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The 'Ohana would respectfully request that this language, which merely is one of several special developments/events that have taken place in January, which give credence for declaring January as Kalaupapa Month.

Note 3: This is amended language that the Senate Judiciary put into SB697. The 'Ohana supports this amendment, but also is requesting the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs to also recognize the U.S. government's recognition of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa which is an amendment proposed by the 'Ohana for the CAI to consider as explained in Note 4.

Note 4: The Senate Judiciary's amended language supported by the 'Ohana that recognizes the U.S. government's involvement at Kalaupapa by designating Kalaupapa a National Historic Landmark and then establishing Kalaupapa a National Historic Park was established in 1980 to recognize and preserve the history of the peninsula and support the remaining residents.

In concert with this amended language, the 'Ohana is respectfully requesting the CIA Committee to give like recognition to the U.S. Government's passing a public law to authorize the 'Ohana to operate at Kalaupapa, one of only two entities to receive such authorization from the U.S. government...the other being National Park Service.

Note 5: The 'Ohana supports new language inserted into SB697 by Senate Judiciary Committee that reads "J. N. Loe, Kahauliko, Lili'i, Puha, Kini, Lono, Waipio, Kainana, Kaaumoana, Nahuina, Lapaka, and Kepihe" subject to the following name correction: "Lapaka" should be spelled "Lakapu" according to the 'Ohana's historian Anwei Law.



March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairperson
House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

We write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month
Hearing: March 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m., Room 329

To Chairperson Gates & Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs:

As the population of Kalaupapa becomes smaller and smaller, it is increasingly important to find different ways to ensure that this important history is remembered in Hawai`i and throughout the world. The month of January is filled with significant dates related to this history.

On January 6, 1866, the first group of individuals was sent to Kalaupapa because they had leprosy. Accompanying these nine men and three women were at least five family members and one small boy whom they hid in their midst. One of the individuals with leprosy, Kini, was 15 years old, Kaaumoana was 16. The ages of the rest are not yet known. J.N. Loe and J.D. Kahauliko would immediately start writing letters to the Board of Health describing their situation. J.N. Loe noted that they were "in total darkness" and asked that two Hawaiian language newspapers be sent to them.

Father Damien De Veuster was born on January 3; Barbara Koob, who would become Mother Marianne Cope, was born on January 23, which has been designated as her Feast Day; Ambrose Kanewalii Hutchison, who lived at Kalaupapa for 53 years and served as Resident Superintendent for a total of ten years, longer than any other person who was facing the physical, social and emotional challenges of leprosy, arrived at Kalaupapa on January 5, 1879.

In January 1895, the final kama`aina, the original residents of Kalaupapa who had provided the people sent to Kalaupapa with so much support and assistance, were given notice that they had to leave the peninsula.

Designating January as Kalaupapa Month will provide schools, churches and other organizations with a special time to focus on the history of Kalaupapa and the estimated 8,000 individuals who were sent there.

Sincerely,

Henry G. Law
First Superintendent, Kalaupapa National Historical Park

Anwei Skinsnes Law, MPH
Director, IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity
President for Heritage & Education, IDEA
Historian, Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa

IDEA Center for the Voices of Humanity, 32 Fall Street, Suite A; P.O. Box 651, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Telephone: 315-568-5838; FAX: 315-568-5891; email: alaw@idealeprosodydignity.org



IOLANI PALACE

Post Office Box 2259 Honolulu, HI 96804-2259 Telephone (808) 522-0822 FAX (808) 532-1051

**Testimony of
PAULA AKANA
Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on
Culture, Arts, & International Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 AM
House Conference Room 329 Videoconference**

**In Consideration of
SENATE BILL 697 SD 1
Relating to Kalaupapa Month**

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and Committee Members,

I am Paula Akana, Executive Director of The Friends of Iolani Palace and I support SB697 SD1. I also support amendments recommended by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa as deemed appropriate by your CAI Committee

I, like so many Hawaii families, had ohana with ties to Kalaupapa. As a reporter, I visited there many times. I was also in Pearl City the day Bernard Punikai'a and Clarence Naia were arrested.

I believe designating January as Kalaupapa Month will help to ensure the stories of the sacrifices and perseverance of the people of Kalaupapa will live on. It will allow Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to continue its commitment to educating the public about this special place and the people who called her home.

In fact, right now we have on display at Iolani Palace their exhibit, "A Source of Light, Constant and Fading" about the Royal Families meaningful connection to Kalaupapa.

We just lost Boogie Kahilihiwa, who was here last year to testify for this measure. Let's aloha him by passing SB697 SD1.

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chairman
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs

Hearing March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Support for SB697 – Relating to designation of Janaury as Kalaupapa Month.

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

My name is DeGray Vanderbilt. I am a member of the Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors, a Native Hawaiian, non-profit organization consisting of residents of Kalaupapa, their extended ‘ohana and longtime friends of the Kalaupapa community. The organization was formed by many of the patient residents of Kalaupapa, who saw their numbers growing smaller and wanted to create an established organization to ensure that their voices would continue to be heard and that the legacy of Kalaupapa, as they envisioned it, would become a lasting reality.

For the past 27 years, I’ve had the privilege of standing in for Santa at the annual Lion’s Club Christmas party at Kalaupapa. I developed many close friends at Kalaupapa. Sadly most have passed away, and only 11 residents remain. The latest resident to pass on is Clarence “Boogie” Kahilihiwa, the President of the Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, who was a strong proponent of the Kalaupapa Month Bill. He testified in person to express his support of the Bill at last year’s legislative session before Covid brought the session to a halt.

I am testifying in STRONG support of SB697 and expressing my support for amendments to the Bill’s historical context proposed by the ‘Ohana, which your Committee hopefully will find to be reasonable and appropriate. None of the amendments proposed, as I understand them, are controversial but are designed to provide meaningful perspective regarding the background of how the Bill came to be.

The proposed amendments will not change the statutory language proposed in the Bill which reads as follows: *Kalaupapa Month. The month of January shall be known and designated as “Kalaupapa Month” to serve as an annual reminder to people all over of the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant sacrifices and contributions made by its residents throughout history of Hawaii. This month is not and shall not be construed as a state holiday.”*

Having January designated as Kalaupapa Month will sustain the awareness and appreciation for this extremely important part of Hawaii’s history, which is relatively unknown, and will significantly contribute to ensure that its legacy is fulfilled and preserved in perpetuity as envisioned by the residents of Kalaupapa.

Respectfully submitted

DeGray Vanderbilt

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs (CAI)

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee: Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference/Conference Room 329

RE: SB 697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF), I am writing in **support for SB 697 SD1**. The bill would designate January as “Kalaupapa Month” to serve as an annual reminder of the history of Kalaupapa and the sacrifices and contributions made by its residents throughout the history of Hawai'i.

Kalaupapa is one of the most significant historic places in the Hawaiian Islands. It is designated as a National Historic Landmark, which is a specific type of historic designation that recognizes properties of exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the nation and that have a high degree of historic integrity.

Kalaupapa's historic significance includes:

- Association with nationally and internationally important events in the historic of leprosy (now known as Hansen's disease). Established in 1866, the settlement initiated the modern public health practice of compulsory segregation of persons affected by leprosy at remote facilities. It represents the largest, longest operating Hansen's disease institution located within the present United States;
- Its influence on national and international ideas concerning the rights of persons affected by disease;
- Its exceptional value to the study of the origins and development of modern leprosia in the US and internationally;
- Association with the lives of Father Damien DeVeuster (now Saint Damien of Moloka'i) and Mother Marianne Cope (now Saint Marianne Cope). Both played important roles in improving morale and living conditions at the settlement;
- Exceptional, distinctive architectural design incorporating institutional elements for enforcing medical isolation with a variety of vernacular architectural forms and landscape characteristics. This remarkably intact historic district includes forms unique to Hawai'i (such as dry-stack stone masonry) and forms that were adapted to Hawaii's climate and culture, including meeting house and gothic style churches, and early 20th-century Hawaiian Plantation style residences and community buildings; and
- Important archaeological research that yields and may continue to yield information about the relationship between pre-contact and early post-contact Native Hawaiian use of the Kalaupapa peninsula and the area's development before the leprosy settlement began in 1866.

The proposed “Kalaupapa Month” is an opportunity to promote public awareness, education and inspiration about the people, places, events and culture associated with the exceptional significance of Kalaupapa.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

March 15, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB697 SD1

Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 329

I write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs,

My name is Marci Weight Lyons. I am a member of *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa*. My father, Edward Weight, was born in Kalaupapa in 1930. My Dad was taken from his parents and lived his childhood in an orphanage and various foster homes. My grandparents, who were sent to Kalaupapa, and two of their sons are buried there. My volunteerism with *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* has given me many opportunities to be in Kalaupapa where I discovered several additional family members who are buried there. It is a gift and a blessing to share this awareness of these resting places and family history with my extended 'ohana.

I am asking the Legislature to designate January as Kalaupapa Month to be observed annually in Hawai`i. Kalaupapa Month will be a reminder of the importance of Kalaupapa, the significant historical contributions and the people who were a part of that history. I have had the opportunity to listen to Kalaupapa residents who gave heartfelt testimony of what it means to them to honor those sent to Kalaupapa and to never let them be forgotten. I feel my family who are buried in Kalaupapa would share these sentiments if they could speak for themselves.

I ask for your support of SB697 SD1 to establish Kalaupapa Month and any appropriate amendments *Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa* proposes your Committee to consider.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Weight Lyons
marciL.email@gmail.com



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

March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
[Via email: repgates@Capitol.hawaii.gov]

Dear Representative Gates,

Peace be with you!

I am writing in favor of SB 697 SD1, which would declare January of each year as Kalaupapa Month. As a native of Hawaii whose family has been here for 150 years, I have two relatives who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's disease (a great-grandfather and a great-aunt, his daughter). As the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu I had the privilege of attending the canonizations of St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope, who continue to inspire us all with their spiritual and humanitarian work in Kalaupapa. We are looking into proposing the cause for canonization as a Saint of Joseph Dutton. I have become acquainted with the story of an elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who was a contemporary of Fr. Damien who became his friend and fellow community leader in Kalaupapa. It has been a blessing to know many of the current patients in Kalaupapa and those who have died there in the past decade or so.

The memory of these and so many others who suffered so much yet who made a life of love and happiness for themselves and their community is one that can perpetually inspire us all. Those stories can be told even more faithfully if the entire month of January is dedicated as Kalaupapa month. Therefore I urge the passage of SB 697 SD1, and I thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Silva".

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Cc.: Joseph Lapilio, Executive Director, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa



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

March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
[Via email: repgates@Capitol.hawaii.gov]

Dear Representative Gates,

Peace be with you!

I am writing in favor of SB 697 SD1, which would declare January of each year as Kalaupapa Month. As a native of Hawaii whose family has been here for 150 years, I have two relatives who were sent to Kalaupapa with Hansen's disease (a great-grandfather and a great-aunt, his daughter). As the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu I had the privilege of attending the canonizations of St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope, who continue to inspire us all with their spiritual and humanitarian work in Kalaupapa. We are looking into proposing the cause for canonization as a Saint of Joseph Dutton. I have become acquainted with the story of an elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who was a contemporary of Fr. Damien who became his friend and fellow community leader in Kalaupapa. It has been a blessing to know many of the current patients in Kalaupapa and those who have died there in the past decade or so.

The memory of these and so many others who suffered so much yet who made a life of love and happiness for themselves and their community is one that can perpetually inspire us all. Those stories can be told even more faithfully if the entire month of January is dedicated as Kalaupapa month. Therefore I urge the passage of SB 697 SD1, and I thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Silva". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Cc.: Joseph Lapilio, Executive Director, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa

March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Hawai`i State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB697 SD1

Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 329

I write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

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

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

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

I am writing in strong support of SB697 SD1, which would designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i and would be observed annually.

I request your support of SB697 SD1, designating January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i.

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

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chairman
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chairman

Regarding SB697: Kalaupapa Month

Wednesday, March 17, 10 a.m., via videoconference

I write in strong support of SB697, establishing January as Kalaupapa Month annually across Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti and Members of the House Committee on Culture, the Arts and International Affairs:

As a founding member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and former Executive Director, I write in strong support of a proposal from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to designate January as Kalaupapa Month annually in Hawai'i.

Ka 'Ohana is asking that January be designated as Kalaupapa Month annually because so many significant events occurred throughout the history in that month -- and it would be the perfect time to pay tribute annually to Kalaupapa. This was the month when the first 12 citizens of Hawai'i were sent to Kalaupapa; when both of Kalaupapa's Saints -- Father Damien and Mother Marianne -- were born and when the Hawai'i United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday. Other important events also occurred in January.

Designating a month every year to remember the nearly 8,000 men, women and children who were sent to Kalaupapa will be a wonderful way of bringing these individuals back into the history they helped to create -- so many of them have been left out. It's a way for teachers to include the history of Kalaupapa in their classrooms, for churches to recognize how faith helped people to heal and bond and for families to pay special attention to their ancestors who were at Kalaupapa.

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

I humbly ask for your support of SB697, designating January as Kalaupapa Month annually in Hawaii, including amendments suggested by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and approved by this Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Valerie Monson

vmonson175@gmail.com

SB-697-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 10:32:48 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Cuello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Andrew Cuello and an employee of Kalaupapa for the past 17 years. I support Uncle Boogie bill. What was done to them was wrong and the people of Hawaii should know that. Please support Boogie's Dream.

March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Bill Number: SB2796

Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

I write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

My name is Jason Umemoto. I serve on the Board of Directors of Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa, the organization that represents the living resident/patients at Kalaupapa and all of the family and descendants of those who were sent to Kalaupapa and have since passed away. My grand uncle Ed Kato was one of those sent to Kalaupapa as a young man and remained a resident of Kalaupapa until his passing.

I am asking the Legislature to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawaii and that it will be observed on an annual basis. No month contains more important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa than the month of January. Kalaupapa Month will be an annual reminder to all people throughout Hawaii about the importance of Kalaupapa and the significant contributions made by her people throughout the history of Hawaii.

The names of the people of Kalaupapa have been mostly forgotten over the years and left out of the history that they helped create. Kalaupapa Month will make certain that they will be forever remembered by providing annual opportunities to celebrate their lives.

I ask for your support of SB697 SD1 to establish Kalaupapa Month.

Respectfully submitted and with great Aloha,



Jason Umemoto

SB-697-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 2:25:53 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Carlson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and the Kupuna of Kalaupapa.

SB-697-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:05:00 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill SB 697 for Kalaupapa

Aloha

SB-697-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 6:08:16 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I offer my support for bill # SB 697.

Mahalo nui, Gene Ross

March 14, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Hawai`i State Legislature Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796 Kalaupapa Month

Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m. Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 329

I write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be Observed Annually.

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

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

I am writing in strong support of SB697-SD1. Perhaps no month contains no more important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa than the month of January. This is the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; the month of the birthdays of Father Damien and Mother Marianne who have both been canonized; the month when the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday – and other important dates.

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

My Family the Brede's and Apio's, humbly ask for your support of SB697-SD1, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be Observed Annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin K Brede

Nephew of David Brede, Jimmy Brede and Nancy Brede

Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Friend of Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise

ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com

March 14, 2021

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chairman
Representative Matthew S. Lo Presti, Vice Chairman

Regarding: SB697 -- Kalaupapa Month

Hearing on Wednesday, March 17, 10 a.m., via videoconference

We write in strong support of SB697 -- Establishing January as Kalaupapa Month annually in Hawai'i

Aloha Chairman Gates, Vice Chairman Lo Presti and Members of the House Culture, Arts and International Affairs Committee,

We send all of you warm greetings from Kalaupapa, which has been home to each of us signing this letter for more than 50 years. This written testimony shows our strong support of SB697 as proposed by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa -- establishing January as Kalaupapa Month annually across Hawai'i.

As envisioned by Ka 'Ohana, Kalaupapa Month would be a time to celebrate and remember the people of Kalaupapa and our important history -- not just remembering those of us still living, but all of the nearly 8,000 men, women and children who were taken from their families and isolated here on this peninsula because they were diagnosed with leprosy. Because of the work of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, we now know many individuals throughout history by their name along with their many accomplishments.

We would hope that teachers would use Kalaupapa Month to focus on the history of Kalaupapa in their classrooms, that churches would pay tribute to the sacrifices made by those sent to Kalaupapa as well as the families who were left behind and that descendants of Kalaupapa would seek out more information about their ancestors and share their stories.

January is the perfect time for everyone in Hawai'i to observe Kalaupapa Month with many significant dates occurring in Januarys throughout the history. It's also a wonderful way to start off the new year.

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

With warmest regards,

Barbara M. ...
Iry K. Kahilohua
John ...
Pauline (Aho)
Winifred Hana da



March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs Hawai`i State Legislature Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813 Bill Number: SB2796 Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m. Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 329

SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month

Aloha e, Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

My name is Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya. I am a resident of Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead and serve on the Nanakui-Maili NB#36 as the Chair and a O`ahu DHHL Commissioner. My testimony is not on behalf of the organizations that I serve but on my own and a descendant of Kahanamoku, Paoa O`hana.

I can remember of my mother Joanne Kamuela Kahanamoku, of Kona Hawai`i volunteering her time to teach the many who reside in Kalaupapa under Uncle Kahilihiwa and kupuna`s of her feather art lei making artwork to the Ka Ohana O` Kalaupapa. As an artist she would always speak of the importance of educating the people of Hawai`i and the history which falls in Kalaupapa and the people that should be remembered over the years that many helped to create throughout the history of Hawai`i. Therefore, I ask that this Legislature to designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be observed annually.

I humbly ask for your support of SB697 SD1 to establish Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i.

Mahalo piha,

Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya *Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya*
PO Box 2308, Wai`anae, Hawaii 96792
Phone: 808 723-9161

March 16, 2021

Representative Cedric Gates, Chairman
House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs
Hawai`i State Legislature Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Bill Number: SB2796 Kalaupapa Month

Hearing: March 17, 2021 at 10 a.m. Hawai`i State Capitol, Room 329

I write in support of SB697 SD1, Relating to Kalaupapa Month, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be Observed Annually.

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee on Culture, Arts and International Affairs.

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

I am writing in strong support of SB697-SD1. Perhaps no month contains no more important dates throughout the history of Kalaupapa than the month of January. This is the month when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866; the month of the birthdays of Father Damien and Mother Marianne who have both been canonized; the month when the United Church of Christ celebrates Kalaupapa Sunday – and other important dates.

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

My Family the Brede's and Apio's, humbly ask for your support of SB697-SD1, to Designate January as Kalaupapa Month in Hawai`i that will be Observed Annually.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin K Brede

Nephew of David Brede, Jimmy Brede and Nancy Brede

Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Friend of Rotary Club of Mililani Sunrise

ckbrede@hawaii.rr.com