

## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 15, 2008

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Joey Manahan, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Tourism and Culture

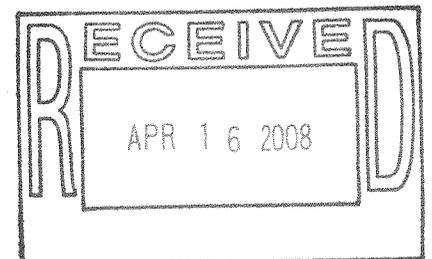
FROM: Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
And International Affairs

**RE:** SCR 208 RECOGNIZING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR THEIR SACRIFICES, AND APOLOGIZING TO THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR ANY HARSH RESTRICTIONS THAT CAUSED THEM UNDUE PAIN AS THE RESULT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES SURROUNDING LEPROSY.

I request that your committee hear SCR 208. This resolution is the result of countless drafts and the ultimate collaboration of the Department of Health, the residents and families of Kalaupapa, and others who have devoted their lifetime to the realization of what this resolution embodies. Furthermore, the Governor's Policy Office and the Attorney General have reviewed and approved this resolution. (See attached letter from Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General)

More importantly, this resolution is an expression of sincere thanks while acknowledging the sorrow that the residents may have endured.

Mahalo nui loa for your thoughtful consideration in bringing closure to this chapter in the history of Hawai'i.



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



MARK J. BENNETT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

LISA M. GINOZA  
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
425 QUEEN STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
(808) 586-1500

April 1, 2008

The Honorable J. Kalani English  
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and  
International Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 205  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: S.C.R. No. 208, Proposed S.D. 1

Dear Chair English:

I have reviewed S.C.R. 208, Proposed S.D. 1, which is attached as Exhibit A. I see no legal or constitutional problems with this resolution.

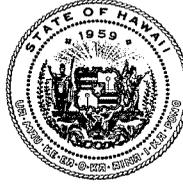
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Bennett".

Mark J. Bennett  
Attorney General

Attachment

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Tourism & Culture**

**SCR 208, SD1/SR122, Recognizing and Acknowledging the People of Kalaupapa and Their Families for Their Sacrifices, and Apologizing to the People of Kalaupapa and Their Families for Any Harsh Restrictions That Caused Them Undue Pain as the Result of Government Policies Surrounding Leprosy**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**April 24, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this amended concurrent resolution.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** There is no doubt that the residents of Kalaupapa and their families made
- 4 great sacrifices to protect the public's health. Recognizing and expressing our gratitude for their
- 5 sacrifices honors Kalaupapa resident, Paul Harada who first proposed this as well as all those who have
- 6 given so much.
- 7 This amended bill honors Mr. Harada's intentions, lowers the State's potential for financial lawsuits and
- 8 does not hamper any future public health responses.
- 9 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# **Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa**

“E Ho`ohanohano a E Ho`omau...  
To Honor and To Perpetuate.”

PO Box 1111, Kalaupapa, Hawaii 96742

## **TOURISM AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Joey Manahan, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, April 21, 2008

TIME: 9:30 p.m.

PLACE: Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: SCR 208 SD1

Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, a nonprofit organization made up of Kalaupapa residents, family members, friends and others who support the community, strongly supports the adoption of SCR 208 SD1 without further amendments. This important resolution acknowledges the sacrifices made by the people of Kalaupapa and their families and offers an apology for any undue pain that resulted from the harsh separation caused by policies of past governments.

The ‘Ohana has worked with the Kalaupapa community and Hawaii government leaders on this resolution for nearly three months. The document in front of you has been approved by the

Kalaupapa community, the State Department of Health, Attorney General Mark Bennett and the Governor's Policy Advisory Committee. We believe it can move forward with no significant changes.

One of the primary goals of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to bring families together to honor and remember the people of Kalaupapa. The 'Ohana would not support or be involved in any efforts or actions that would lead to lawsuits.

We want to thank Chairman Ryan Yamane and Vice Chair Joey Manahan for hearing this resolution. We want to thank Representative Mele Carroll, whose district includes Kalaupapa, for her support, as well.

The 'Ohana proposed this resolution after the idea was suggested by Paul Harada, one of Kalaupapa's most respected leaders. For nearly 30 years, Mr. Harada felt the people of Kalaupapa deserved an expression of gratitude and acknowledgement from the State of Hawaii and the people of Hawaii for the many sacrifices they had made by willingly leaving their families to be isolated at Kalaupapa because of society's fear of leprosy. Mr. Harada said that the people of Kalaupapa had often expressed their gratitude to the State for providing for their care, but that the State had failed to thank the people of Kalaupapa for all the freedoms and the opportunities they had given up because they believed they were a threat to the public health.

The resolution envisioned by Mr. Harada would be a positive gesture by the State of Hawaii and the general public that would honor and respect the community.

Late last year, Mr. Harada again shared his desire for public acknowledgement to the people of Kalaupapa with his younger brother, Glenn. Glenn Harada, a member of the Board of Directors

of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, asked other ‘Ohana directors if they would support introducing a resolution to the State Legislature asking for a public acknowledgement. Since this was just before Christmas, it was decided to speak to the Kalaupapa community about Mr. Harada’s idea after the holidays.

Unfortunately, Mr. Harada will never hear this resolution because he died on Jan. 4.

In Mr. Harada’s memory, the board of Ka ‘Ohana proceeded with plans for the resolution.

After a draft of the resolution was prepared by the board of Ka ‘Ohana, a community meeting was held at Kalaupapa where the resolution was read and comments accepted. There were tears from residents as they recalled painful memories of all that they and their families were forced to give up and endure when they were diagnosed with this, a most misunderstood disease. They also talked about the great hardships experienced by people who were sent to Kalaupapa in the early days when there was no hope of ever returning home. While everyone endorsed the resolution, many believed that it would not be complete without an apology for the pain and other injustices that resulted from the extreme separation and prejudice that came to be associated with the disease.

The revised resolution was later discussed at a Board of Directors meeting of Ka ‘Ohana, which is open to the Kalaupapa community. In addition, efforts were made to share the resolution with individuals who were unable to attend either meeting.

Additional revisions came about at the recommendation of the State Department of Health. Attorney General Mark Bennett and the Governor’s Policy Advisory Committee were consulted – and were satisfied that the resolution in its current form would raise no other concerns.

This resolution is not about blame. No one is pointing fingers at any agency or individual. That would not be productive or even make any sense since everyone involved in making the policies that required separation from one's family is no longer with us.

We, as a society, must publicly recognize the people of Kalaupapa and their families for the sacrifices they made and apologize for the pain they suffered – all because they were told it was necessary for the good of the public health. The estimated 8,000 people isolated at Kalaupapa between 1866 and 1969 and their families experienced great pain and suffering from the separation. It is only right for us as a government and a people to thank them, acknowledge all the challenges they faced and apologize for the pain of separation felt by both those sent to Kalaupapa and to the people they left behind, their families and loved ones.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa wants to thank the House Tourism and Culture Committee for hearing this very important resolution that was adopted by the State Senate. We look forward to your support. The people of Kalaupapa are some of Hawaii's most outstanding citizens and we should be proud to acknowledge them and their families.

*Kawaihapai Ohana*  
 c/o Thomas T Shirai Jr  
 P O Box 601  
 Waiulua, HI 96791  
 email: [Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com)

Hearing Notice  
 Thursday, April 24, 2008  
 2:00 PM  
 State Capital Conference Room 423

House Committee on Tourism & Culture  
 Representative Ryan Yamane, *Chair*

**RE: Testimony Supporting SCR 208 SD1 (Recognizing & Acknowledging The People Of Kalaupapa And Their Families For Their Sacrifices, And Apologizing To The People Of Kalaupapa And Their Families For Any Harsh Restrictions That Caused Them Untue Pain As The Result Of Government Policies Surrounding Leprosy.)**

Aloha Chair Yamane & Committee Members,

The *Kawaihapai Ohana* strongly supports SCR 208 SD1 and is a *Recognized Native Hawaiian Organization* by the *Department of Interior*. Honoring *Na Kupuna of Kawaihapai Ahupua'a* is part of the mission statement and therefore this testimony is written on behalf on the *Kupuna* sent to *Kalaupapa Settlement*:

*Leipapale Kakulu – (1880-1904)*  
*Clara Napuakakai Kakulu Keau – (1898-1958)*  
*Issac Kapule Keau – (1925-1996)*

As with similar stories from others, these *Kupuna* experienced being treated like outcast by the community. Sadly some family members were jealous and greedy who along with the *Territory of Hawaii (Board of Health)* had these *Kupuna* sent to *Kalaupapa* for the sake of taking *aina*. Please note ample knowledge existed to distinguish between *leprosy* and *diabetes*. Regarding *Clara Napuakakai Kakulu Keau*, she contracted *leprosy* at either *Kalaupapa* or *Kalihi Hospital*. Upon returning to *Oahu* she was a patient at *Kalihi Hospital* and eventually became an outpatient at *Hale Mohala*. Potential genocide was committed when the *Board of Health* tried to commit *Clara's* younger siblings with *Issac* to *Kalaupapa* regardless of their health status. If it weren't for *Ohana* interveing this would have happened.

After being healed, *Clara* experienced being treated as an outcast and took up residence at *Papukaa* with only a tarp while *Issac* remained at *Kalaupapa*. Many others experience the same treatment and like *Issac*, decided to remain at *Kalaupapa* where they were welcomed and never had to encounter the social discriminations afforded to them in communities. *Kalaupapa* became their *Pu'uhonua*.

Testimony of DeGray Vanderbilt

Fax: One page to (808) 586-6011

DATE AND TIME Thursday, April, 24, 2008 @ 2 p.m.

Room No.: CONFERENCE ROOM 473

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 208 SD1.

Aloha Chairman Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan and members of the House Tourism and Culture Committee.

It's been a long road for the subject resolution.

The resolution has been approved by the Kalaupapa community, the Department of Health, the Attorney General and the Governor's Policy Advisory Committee.

For the past fifteen years I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as Santa Claus at the annual Lion's Club Kalaupapa Christmas party.

The residents of Kalaupapa have been an inspiration to me.

Living on topside Molokai, I have also been fortunate to have known many of the Kalaupapa residents over the years. Unfortunately, only a few of those I have known are still living.

It is for these remaining residents that I ask you to support the passage of the subject resolution. They, and those who have passed away, sacrifice so much to protect those they loved as well as the state's general population.

The resolution is long overdue and its passage will reflect the debt of gratitude not only from our legislators, but also on behalf of the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,



DeGray Vanderbilt Box 1348 Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii 96748 (808) 283-8171

TESTIMONY  
Thursday, April, 24, 2008  
2:00pm  
Conference Room 423  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Joey Manahan, Vice Chair

RE: SCR 208, SD 1

Testimony: Pauline Hess  
Family member and Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa board member

As a family member and board member of Ka'Ohana O Kalaupapa, I am in full support of SCR 208, SD1 and strongly encourage this committee to pass this resolution with no amendments. It has been approved by the Kalaupapa community, the State Department of Health, Attorney General Mark Bennett and the Governor's Policy Advisory Committee.

This resolution is an idea of a beloved and respected Kalaupapa patient resident, who died in January, 2008. He had expressed his wishes for such a resolution for many years to his family members, friends and fellow Kalaupapa patient community members. It was the Kalaupapa patient community members who approved this resolution.

When the resolution passed in the Senate, I had the honor and pleasure to read SCR 208, SD1 to several of the Kalaupapa patients. After hearing the resolution, not one of them spoke of themselves. Their immediate response was gratitude for the acknowledgement and apology, for their families who were left behind and for their family and friends who shared their lives with them in Kalaupapa. Some of them named their loved ones...one by one...they were names of friends and family who have already passed.

One woman broke down and cried...with tears in her eyes she spoke of the isolation and abandonment her parents suffered when they had to turn in their children to the authorities to be isolated and separated from their love and support. And because people were afraid, her parents then became isolated themselves by their family and neighbors. They were left alone to suffer their losses. For her, this resolution is for her parents.

Lives were abruptly interrupted and changed forever. In the past, isolation was the best means known to protect people from this disease. My parents, four uncles and two aunties were among them. My mother was nine years old. My father was diagnosed when he entered the military. My parents had to surrender me at my birth.

Within a week of my birth my father's parents lovingly took me in as their own. As a child, they made sure that I stayed connected with my parents. As a child, my grandparents would take me to visit my parents at Hale Mohalu in Pearl City each summer. They also encouraged me to write letters and make phone calls to my parents throughout the years. I remain connected with my mother today because of my grandparents.

I never met my mother's father, but he must have been a very strong man. I can only imagine what he went through when he had to turn in five of his children, one by one, at different ages and at different times. He said his final goodbyes to each child as they left for Kalaupapa. He never saw his children ever again. For me, this resolution is for my mother who still lives in Kalaupapa, my father, uncles and aunties who died in Kalaupapa and for my grandparents who loved their children.

Please pass this resolution to make things right and pono...for the people of Kalaupapa, their families who were left behind, the people of Hawaii and the history of Kalaupapa.

Thank you very much,

Pauline Hess

**manahan2-Allan**

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**From:** Vanessa Matautia on behalf of Rep. Joey Manahan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008 10:38 AM  
**To:** manahan2-Allan  
**Subject:** FW: SCR 208 SD1

~~~~~  
Vanessa Pule Matautia  
Legislative Office Manager  
Representative Joey Manahan  
State Capitol, Room 421  
(808) 586-6010  
(808) 586-6011  
~~~~~

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**From:** Sol Kahoohalahala [mailto:pili\_sol@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2008 2:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Joey Manahan  
**Subject:** SCR 208 SD1

Aloha Joey,(Vice-Chair)

I am seeking your support as Vice-Chair and that of your colleagues in passage of **SCR 208 SD1** relating to the people of Kalaupapa, scheduled for hearing in TAC, Thursday, 4/24 @ 2 p.m.

This reso is an acknowledgment of the treatment of all the people who were confined to Kalaupapa and for the hardships they endured in their lives. We could never ever know or understand their pain and suffering and I believe that we owe them a debt of gratitude. This statement of mahalo and aloha will never undo what has passed, but for the few that remain, this is a step in the right direction to acknowledge this horrific past but to assure that we will never repeat it and that we will never forget the sacrifices made by the more than 8,000 individuals who made Kalaupapa their home.

On behalf of my Tutu Ambrose and Lilian Kaho'ohalahala and my Uncle Jeremiah Kaopuiki, mahalo for your help in passing this resolution.

A hui hou,

Sol Kaho'ohalahala

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**manahan2-Allan**

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**From:** Vanessa Matautia on behalf of Rep. Joey Manahan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008 12:33 PM  
**To:** manahan2-Allan  
**Subject:** FW: SCR 208 SD1

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Vanessa Pule Matautia  
Legislative Office Manager  
Representative Joey Manahan  
State Capitol, Room 421  
(808) 586-6010  
(808) 586-6011

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**From:** Donald Reeser [mailto:donbunr@maui.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008 11:58 AM  
**To:** Rep. Joey Manahan  
**Subject:** SCR 208 SD1

**Re: SCR 208 SD1 hearing April 24**

**Dear Representative Manahan:**

**In memory of my late wife, Henrietta Weber Reeser, I ask you to attend the Tourism and Culture Committee hearing tomorrow at 2 p.m. to adopt SCR 208 SD1. It acknowledges the people of Kalaupapa and their families for their sacrifices and apologizes for any undue pain caused by the restrictions and treatment of those having contracted Hansen's disease.**

**My wife, from Hakalau on the Big Island, residing on Maui 1988 until her death in 2007, was active in this cause. Her great-grandmother, Rosine Weber, was forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa in 1911 and died there in 1917.**

**Thank you in advance for attending and passing this resolution which is so important to the remaining patients and their families, as well as, the families of the 8,000 Kalaupapa deceased patients.**

**Mahalo Nui Loa**

**Donald W. Reeser  
1445 Piiholo Road  
Makawao, HI 96768**

Don Reeser  
(808) 572-2331 landline  
(808) 344-1699 cell  
[donbunr@maui.net](mailto:donbunr@maui.net)

4/23/2008

Thomas T Shirai Jr  
 P O Box 601  
 Waiialua, HI 96791  
 email: [kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com)

Hearing Notice  
 Thursday, April 24, 2008  
 2:00 PM  
 State Capitol Conference Room 423

House Committee on Tourism & Culture  
 Representative Ryan Yamane, *Chair*

RE: **Testimony of Support for SCR 208 SD1 (Recognizing & Acknowledging The People & Their Families For Their Sacrifices, And Apologizing To The People Of Kalaupapa And Their Families For Any Harsh Restrictions That Caused Them Undue Pain As The Result Of Government Policies Surrounding Leprosy.)**

Aloha Chair Yamane & Committee Members,

I strongly support SCR 208 SD1 and is long overdue. I'm writing this testimony on behalf of my beloved *Na Kupuna* who were sent to *Kalaupapa Leprosy Settlement*:

*Leipapale Kakulu (1880-1904) – Great-Great Grand Aunt*  
*Clara Napuakēkēu Kakulu Keao (1898-1958) – Great Grandmother*  
*Issac Kapule Keao (1925-1996) – Grand Uncle*

The main bulk of this testimony surrounds my beloved Great Grandmother *Clara Napuakēkēu Kakulu Keao*. Although I didn't meet her during her lifetime, I'm very connected to her because when my Grandfather and I regularly visited my Grandmother and Father at our family cemetery plot, it was my *kuleana* to *malama* my Great Grandparents grave. My Grandfather tended to my Grandmother and Father's grave and told me to take care of "*Tuu Mama and Tuu Papa*."

My Great Grandmother was a very special person since the time of her birth and was an heir to various tracts and parcels of land located within *Waiialua Moku* with an emphasis situated along the Northwest Coastline encompassing the *Ahupua'a of Kamanunui, Moku'e'ia, Kekahi, Auku'u, Kawaihapai, Kealia and Kaena*. As with some *Kupuna*, this legacy starts beautiful and ends tragically.

My Great Grandmother was FULL BLOODED (100%) *Hawaiian* and attended *Mid Pacific Institute (Kawalahao Seminary)*. After moving back to *Kawaihapai*, she met and married my Great Grandfather *David Maikai Keao* who was a *Kalo Mahiai* from *Waiehu, Maui*. They had 10 children and their oldest child was my Grandfather *David Peahi Keao Jr.* It was both my Grandfather and Great Grandfather's *kuleana* to *malama* their *lo'i kalo* and *awa'i* for my Great-Great Grandfather *Keiemoku Kakulu* who was the last *konohiki* of *Kawaihapai Ahupua'a*. As with some *Ohana*, there were those very

envious and jealous of my Great Grandmother. They along with then *Territory of Hawaii (Board of Health)* sent her to *Kalaupapa* for the purpose of taking away her land. Many other *Hawaiian Ohana* experienced this also. Primary exponents of this were **Sugar Plantations and the Military**. Please note during that time there was enough knowledge to distinguish *leprosy* and *diabetes*.

Upon returning to *Oahu*, she was an inpatient at *Kalihi Hospital* and visited regularly by my Grandparents and their siblings which included my Mother (*Laverna Tailomi Keao Shirai*).

Former patients of *Kalaupapa* were treated as outcast in communities and therefore a lot decided to make *Kalaupapa* their *Pu'u Honua* where they treated with respect and dignity.

Adding to this wrongful and unjust treatment of former *Kalaupapa*, was the *Territory of Hawaii* committing a form of genocide by attempting or having remaining *ohana* of those patients sent to *Kalaupapa* regardless if they didn't have *leprosy*. This was almost completely done to my Great Grandmother's younger siblings and if it weren't for my Grandmother (*Abigail Kalomi Akau Keao*) this, they would have sent them also. Sadly my Grandfather's Brother (*Isaac Kapule Keao*) was sent to *Kalaupapa* and lived the rest of his life there operating *Ike's Tours* and periodically visiting *Oahu*. He met and married *Helen Freitas* another *Kalaupapa* patient. She was a gifted songwriter and dubbed "*The Songwriter of Kalaupapa*."

Thru my research, I've also discovered that about 80 (eighty) patients of other ethnic origins (mostly *Hawaiian*) were sent to *Kalaupapa* between 1879-1940. This adds to my support off SCR 208 SD1.

Both SCR 208 SD1 honors A.I.I. patients and former patients of *Kalaupapa*. This is apart of *ho'oponopono* which is consistent to *HR 3332 – To provide for the establishment of a memorial within Kalaupapa National Historic Park..*) which was passed in the *United States Congress*.

*Aloha Ke Akua.*

*Thomas T Shirai Jr*

*Great-Great Grand Nephew, Great Grandson & Grand Nephew of Kalaupapa Patients*