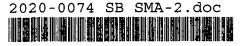
JAN 1 7 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KALAUPAPA MONTH.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that January is a
- 2 significant month in the history of Kalaupapa on the island of
- 3 Moloka'i.
- 4 In 1865, Hawai'i passed "An Act to Prevent the Spread of
- 5 Leprosy", which required the isolation of leprosy patients.
- 6 Accordingly, for that purpose, the State bought eight hundred
- 7 acres of land on the Kalaupapa peninsula of Moloka'i. On
- 8 January 6, 1866, twelve citizens of Hawai'i arrived at Kalaupapa,
- 9 the first of an estimated eight thousand people who were taken
- 10 from their families and forced into isolation.
- 11 The government provided very little support or supplies to
- 12 the early settlement of isolated leprosy patients. When the
- 13 first ships arrived in 1866, the original inhabitants of
- 14 Kalaupapa played a critical role in helping these leprosy
- 15 patients. If not for their kindness and compassion, life would
- 16 have been far worse for those who were forced into isolation.
- 17 As the settlement grew and became overcrowded, the government



- 1 ordered the original inhabitants to leave the land they had
- 2 occupied for generations. The last of the original inhabitants
- 3 of Kalaupapa were evicted in January 1895, a year after the
- 4 Republic of Hawai'i was established.
- 5 The legislature further finds that Hale Mohalu, a
- 6 collection of World War II barracks on eleven acres of land at
- 7 the edge of Pearl City, Oahu, was converted into a treatment
- 8 center for leprosy patients registered at Kalaupapa and became a
- 9 "second home" for many of its patients. Since the 1950s, state
- 10 officials had let Hale Mohalu fall into disrepair, and in 1978,
- 11 the State began relocating patients to Leahi Hospital, its
- 12 designated Honolulu treatment center. On January 26, 1978,
- 13 eight residents of Hale Mohalu were relocated to Leahi Hospital
- 14 against their wishes. Twelve others refused to leave and
- 15 remained behind, including Bernard Punikai'a, Clarence Naia, and
- 16 Frank and Mary Duarte. This began a nearly six-year occupation
- 17 of Hale Mohalu by these residents, who together with their
- 18 supporters, protested policies imposed by the then-Governor and
- 19 the board of health. Punikai'a, Naia, and several of their
- 20 supporters were arrested on September 21, 1983, when the
- 21 buildings of Hale Mohalu were bulldozed.

- 1 The legislature additionally finds that two key individuals
- 2 who committed their lives to serving those affected by leprosy
- 3 also share significant dates in the month of January.
- 4 On January 3, 1840, Jozef De Veuster was born in Belgium.
- 5 He later joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus
- 6 and Mary. Known as Father Damien, he was ordained in Honolulu.
- 7 Father Damien arrived at Kalaupapa in 1873 and spent sixteen
- 8 years of his life caring for the people of Kalaupapa,
- 9 ministering to them, building houses, churches, and tending to
- 10 their medical needs. He was canonized as Saint Damien of
- 11 Moloka'i in 2009.
- 12 On January 23, 1838, Barbara Koob was born in Germany. She
- 13 later became a member of The Sisters of St. Francis of Syracuse,
- 14 New York, and eventually became known as Mother Marianne Cope.
- 15 She was a respected health administrator and answered the call
- 16 of King Kalākaua and Queen Kapi'olani to help people affected by
- 17 leprosy in Hawai'i. She spent thirty years at Kalaupapa,
- 18 supervising the Bishop Home for Single Women and Girls and
- 19 serving as a leader in the community. She was canonized as
- 20 Saint Marianne in 2012.

- 1 Many of the people sent to Kalaupapa also became great
- 2 leaders of the community. On January 5, 1879, Ambrose Hutchison
- 3 arrived at Kalaupapa where he lived for the next fifty-three
- 4 years. He served as resident superintendent for a total of ten
- 5 years, the longest of any other person facing the challenges of
- 6 leprosy.
- 7 The legislature further finds that since 2014, on the
- 8 fourth Sunday of January, the Hawai'i Conference of the United
- 9 Church of Christ (HUCC) observes "Kalaupapa Sunday", wherein
- 10 HUCC churches across Hawai'i remember the people of Kalaupapa,
- 11 particularly the thirty-five men and women who founded Siloama
- 12 Church less than six months after the first leprosy patients
- were sent to Kalaupapa in 1866.
- 14 The legislature finds that the people of Kalaupapa today
- 15 are viewed not only as valuable members of society, but as some
- 16 of Hawaii's finest citizens who have overcome the most difficult
- 17 of circumstances. Mercy Hutchison Bacon, great niece of
- 18 Kalaupapa leader Ambrose Hutchison, called the people of
- 19 Kalaupapa "the pride of a nation."
- Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish January
- 21 as "Kalaupapa month" to serve as an annual reminder to people

- all over Hawai'i about the importance of Kalaupapa and the
- 2 significant contributions made by its people throughout the
- history of Hawai'i. 3
- 4 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
- 5 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
- 6 read as follows:
- 7 Kalaupapa month. The month of January shall be
- 8 known and designated as "Kalaupapa month". This month is not
- 9 and shall not be construed as a state holiday."
- 10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12

INTRODUCED BY:

Report Title:

Kalaupapa Month

Description:

Designates January as "Kalaupapa month."

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