

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

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

FEBRUARY 13, 2026, 1:01 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2256

RELATING TO BROTHER JOSEPH DUTTON DAY

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2256.

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 to risk 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 kama'āina 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 clipping, and personal journal entries from Brother Dutton. To assist in the education and dissemination about the efforts and accomplishments of Brother Dutton, the Public Archives is willing 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 provide testimony on this measure.

February 13, 2026

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
THE JOSEPH DUTTON GUILD TO
THE COMMITTEE ON

WEATER. LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

February 13, 2026, 1:01 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 224 STATE CAPITOL

S. B. 2256, RELATING TO BROTHER JOSEPH DUTTON DAY.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2256. 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.

We would ask that the bill be passed without amending the effective date of "upon its approval." If the House would agree, we would avoid the uncertainties of the conference committee process.

SB-2256

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:37:49 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda R. Duarte	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Brenda R Duarte

45-526 Halekou Road

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Testimony on S.B. 2256

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2256.

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 of current resident Winifred (Marks) Harada.

I also serve on The Joseph Dutton Guild. 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 highly recommend the passage of this bill making April 27th for every year Brother Joseph Dutton Day. I would like to see the effective date of implementation upon immediate passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Brenda R Duarte

Kalaupapa Settlement
Kalawao County

Kalaupapa, HI 96742
Feb. 2, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

From: Meli Watanuki, John Arruda, Kalaupapa residents

Subject: **Support for SB 2256 Relating to Brother Joseph Dutton Day**

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. We are in strong support.

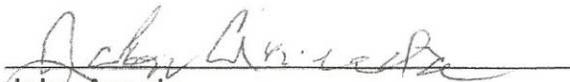
There are three remaining Kalaupapa patients still residing at the Settlement of the five remaining patients. The other two are in Honolulu. Accordingly, we believe we have special standing to comment on this bill. We are 91 and 102 years-old respectively and would like to see timely approval.

Brother Dutton spent the last 44 years of his life in selfless and dedicated service to our people, the people of Kalaupapa, first with the primary duty of sore-dressing, and later managing the Baldwin Home for boys.

He, and the people he served, deserve the recognition that this bill would provide.



Meli Watanuki
PO Box 117



John Arruda
PO Box 27

Charles St. Sure
2499 Kapiolani Boulevard
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hearing on Friday, February 13, 2026
1:01 pm
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee

In Strong Support of SB 2256

First of all find enclosed a copy of the legislative resolution No. 7 of 1029 that is referenced in the bill.

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

- In 2015 the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu took the first official step in a long and complex process toward the canonization of Joseph Dutton. In 2024 the diocese forwarded their findings to the Pope in the Vatican and are awaiting their decision to award Joseph Dutton sainthood.

- Joseph Dutton competes the trifecta along with St. Damien and St. Marianne Cope assuming the duties of administrative assistant at Kalaupapa after St. Damien's passing and overseeing the Balwin Home for men while St. Marianne cared for the Bishop Home for women.

- The date April 27th 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) Ordcastain
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 -
Jm Jm*

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
no 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.

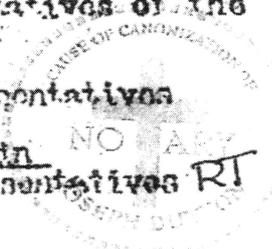
The House of Representatives of the
Territory of Hawaii.

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) Cowart
Speaker, House of Representatives

(Signed) Ordcastain
Clerk, House of Representatives RT



LATE

SB-2256

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:03:13 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geraldine Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joseph Dutton served his country well, especially during the Civil War.

After the War ended he found out about Kalaupapa and served there for 44 years. He took care of St. Damien during his last days on earth. After St. Damien's passing he took on more responsibilities in Kalaupapa. He died in Honolulu, at St. Francis Hospital in 1931. He is another hero who worked tirelessly for those with Hansen's disease.