## Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors

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Edmund Aczon, Chair and Members State Land Use Commission Post Office Box 2359 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Aloha kakou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's petition before your Commission.

My name is Clarence Woody Kekaula Kahilihiwa. I am President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, and have been a resident of Kalaupapa for more than 50 years. I am a proud Hawaiian. The Kalaupapa Memorial will be located on Hawaiian land.

The Memorial will list all the names of the estimated 8,000 people of Hawaii who were forcibly separated from their families and sent to Kalaupapa because of the government's isolation policies regarding people affected by leprosy. Fewer than 1,000 of those sent to Kalaupapa have marked graves.

Ninety percent of these individuals were Hawaiian. Some of them were my family. Many were my friends. I feel a closeness to each and every one of them whether I actually knew them or not. We share a history.

The Memorial is a dream founded and fostered by the residents of Kalaupapa, our 'ohana and longtime friends.

On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Kalaupapa Memorial Act, which Congress had approved. The federal law directs the Secretary of the Interior to authorize our 'Ohana to establish the Memorial at Kalaupapa.

I am 74 years old, the second youngest of the remaining residents living at Kalaupapa. We need to move forward and complete the Memorial while some of us are still alive to celebrate its unveiling.

On behalf of the 'Ohana, I respectfully request that you as Commissioners use your discretion and good judgment and assume the responsibility of issuing our 'Ohana the favorable decision we are seeking.

We are requesting your Commission to rule the Kalaupapa Memorial is an allowable use on state agricultural lands because its development on the historic site of the former Baldwin Boys Home will bring improvements to the site. It is my understanding that your Commission may declare that a development providing improvements to a historic site qualifies as a permitted use.

There is little doubt that the Memorial's development and use will improve the long neglected historic site in many ways. This has been acknowledged by the stakeholders at Kalaupapa including state and federal agencies and owners of the two historic churches located next to the Memorial site.

I have attached a petition of support signed by all those attending our most recent annual meeting at Kalaupapa. The petition includes a one page summary explaining our 'Ohana's priorities for moving the Memorial project from where it is today to completion. I have also included an article from the Maui News reporting on the petition and a ceremonial groundbreaking held on the Memorial site by residents, our family members and friends.

This week I have been in Honolulu with other representatives of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa addressing the annual Convention for Native Hawaiian Advancement. There was overwhelming support for the Memorial and the programs being carried out by our 'Ohana where we have helped hundreds of families learn about their ancestors at Kalaupapa.

A favorable declaratory ruling from the Land Use Commission at your October 16 meeting will be a major contribution to the goal of expediting the process to establish the important and long overdue Kalaupapa Memorial.

As I mentioned above, the Memorial will be located on Hawaiian land. We believe the use of the land for the Memorial will be in the best interest of the welfare of our people in the State of Hawaii.

I would also respectfully request the Commission to waive the assessment of any fees associated with our petition. I understand you have the discretion to consider such a matter.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support.

Carence Booge Sakalilian

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Clarence Kahilihiwa

President

## PETITION OF SUPPORT

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, the National Park Service and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the agency with jurisdiction over the lands where the Memorial will be located, all claim they are working in partnership to fulfill a common goal of expediting the process to complete the construction of the Kalaupapa Memorial.

We the undersigned residents of Kalaupapa, family members of those sent to Kalaupapa and long time friends of the community, who are attending the 'Ohana annual meeting at Kalaupapa (April 24 and 25, 2015), support the "Priorities To Expedite the Process To Establish the Kalaupapa Memorial". The concise one-page document has been approved by the 'Ohana's Board of Directors.

We look forward to moving ahead with the cooperation and support of the Park Service and DLNR to expedite the unveiling of a completed Memorial while there is still a living community at Kalaupapa.

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Family Member Friend Resident Name Signature

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PRIORITIES TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS TO ESTABLISH THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL

1. Complete the State's Chapter 343 environmental compliance process. This is required by the Board of
Land and Natural Resources Land prior to it issuing the 65-year lease to Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa ('Ohana).

- 2. Work together with the DLNR staff and the Deputy Attorney General to negotiate the terms of the 65-year lease for the 5.9-acre Memorial site, formerly occupied by the Baldwin Boys Home. The lease calls for the 'Ohana to manage and maintain the leased land and any improvements (i.e. the Memorial) built thereon.
- 3. Continue discussions with NPS and reach consensus on the terms of a mutually beneficial, non-financial comprehensive management agreement that 1) would apply to the land the 'Ohana is leasing and any future improvements built on the land, and 2) would represent the most fitting agreement to a) capture the NPS/'Ohana partnership based on NPS's involvement in the project and b) to address the following recommendation approved by the Land Board at its July 26, 2013 meeting: "Encourage NPS and the 'Ohana to reach an agreement which describes the roles and responsibilities of the parties with respect to the construction, operation and maintenance of the memorial." The agreement would become effective upon completion of the Section 106 compliance process and approval of the Memorial's final design by NPS. Terms of the agreement would be amended, if needed, to accommodate any applicable findings from the completed Section 106 review process. The agreement would be similar to those NPS has with its other non-profit partners at Kalaupapa and would be an important fundraising component.
- 4. Finalize the 'Ohana's current draft long-term management plan for the Memorial and leased lands. The plan is a condition to the Land Board's approval of the lease. It is also an important fundraising component.
- 5. Work with NPS to reach an early mutual understanding on the general terms of the standard Construction document(s) that NPS may have used for construction projects at Kalaupapa and/or at other park sites in the State. This will assist in expediting future NPS/'Ohana construction document(s) needed for the Memorial.
- 6. Return to the Land Board with the documents defined in items 1-4 above and have its members a) acknowledge that the Chapter 343 process has been successfully completed, b) provide final approval and issuance of the 65-year lease, c) endorse the cooperative management agreement between NPS and the 'Ohana as fulfilling the Board's recommendation to encourage a comprehensive agreement between NPS and the 'Ohana, and d) provide initial approval in principal of the 'Ohana's management agreement subject to the 'Ohana providing a recognized funding source to support the agreement, such as an endowment and/or other sources developed in collaboration with NPS and/or DLNR.

After the Land Board meeting approving, among other things, the lease the 'Ohana would concurrently move forward with the following:

- a. Initiate the process come up with a final design for the Memorial, and
- b. Reach agreement with NPS on a final Construction Agreement, and
- c. Finalize the strategies for the fundraising campaign to raise funds for the Memorial's construction and the establishment of an endowment to ensure the Memorial's long-term care and operations are sustained in perpetuity.

After the final design for the Memorial is completed and approved by NPS and the Land Board, the 'Ohana would initiate the following:

- a. Launch the major campaign to raise funds for the construction of the Memorial and for the development of an endowment fund to sustain the Memorial's long-term care and operation.
- b. Provide final construction plans for NPS and DLNR approval.
- c. Schedule a ground breaking ceremony at the Memorial site that could be co-sponsored by the 'Ohana. NPS and DLNR
- d. Complete construction and hold dedication ceremony to unveil the Memorial

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## Ground broken for Kalaupapa Memorial

By VALERIE MONSON For The Maui News

KALAUPAPA — The land where the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located was blessed and ground was broken during the annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa last weekend.

"We have dedicated the aina for our memorial," announced Boogie Kahilihiwa, president of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, after an emotional procession to the site on the upper grounds of the former Baldwin Boys Home in Kalawao.

Kalaupapa resident John Arruda, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1943 and recently tumed 91, then called for a ground-breaking. Using a fallen branch from nearby, he dug into the ground along with Kahilihiwa, who dug with the points of the ski poles he was using as walking sticks.

ing sticks.
"We want to see this memorial while we're alive," said Arruda. "I'm 91. Am I going to see it?"

The memorial will list the names of the estimated 8,000 people who were sent to Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy (also called Hansen's disease). Because fewer than 1,000 of those who died have marked tombstones, the memorial will return the people of Kalaupapa to their rightful place in the history that they helped to create.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed legislation that authorized Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish the memorial. The 'Ohana has since been working with Kalaupapa National Historical Park and the state Department of Land and Natural Resources on compliance requirements and other issues.

Everyone attending the 'Ohana annual meeting — including eight of the nine Kalaupapa residents who were in the settlement at the time — signed a petition urging that the process to build the memorial be simplified and expedited with the mutual cooperation of the 'Ohana, federal and state officials.

"We've waited long enough," said a tearful Gloria Marks, president of the Kalaupapa Patients Advisory Council and a member of the 'Ohana Board of Directors. "How much longer?"

much longer?"

Of the 51 signatures on the petition of those attending the 'Ohana meeting, 44 were Kalaupapa residents or family members of current residents or residents who have died there. This is the third petition in 12 years signed by nearly all Kalaupapa residents in support of the memorial.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization made up of Kalaupapa residents, family members and longtime friends. The 'Ohana organized in 2003 and has supported the community in various ways. The 'Ohana has advocated for community needs, helped hundreds of families reconnect to their Kalau-

papa ancestors, created traveling exhibits, produced educational materials about Kalaupapa and developed outreach programs to schools and the public that have gone across the islands.

The biggest project of the Ohana is the Kalaupapa Memorial. When Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa organized, Kalaupapa residents asked that building a memorial be a priority of the organization. Kahilihiwa said that the community has been seeking a memorial since 1985.

"Many of our people who wanted this memorial have died," he said.

In 2003, the 'Ohana sought the approval of the National Park Service to build the memorial, but the Park Service elected to withhold its approval. The 'Ohana learned that the only other way to build a memorial within a national park or national historical park was to obtain the approval of Congress.

The Hawaii congressional delegation led the efforts to pass the Kalaupapa Memorial Act that was signed by Obama.

The memorial has the strong support of both the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu and the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ, which own the historic churches of St. Philomena and Siloama, respectively. These are the two structures closest to the site of the memorial.

The state Board of Land and Natural Resources unanimously approved a 65-year lease to the 'Ohana for the approximately 6 acres at the former Baldwin Home for the site. The 'Ohana is in the process of completing the state's environmental compliance process and negotiating terms of the lease. The 'Ohana is also preparing a management plan for the memorial as requested by the land board.

Thanks to a planning and design grant from Maui County, the process to design the memorial is underway. The process is being facilitated by Don Stastny, one of the nation's most sought-after architects to coordinate designs of memorials. Stastny is working with a team of professionals from Hawaii in various disciplines. Some of these professionals had family at Kalaupana.

Stastny has worked on several major projects with National Park Service, including the design process for the Flight 93 and Oklahoma City memorials. He most recently was involved with renovations of the National Mall.

The procession to the memorial site that prompted the impromptu groundbreaking was organized by Piolani Motta, who has been one of the leaders supporting the Kalaupapa Memorial and testified before a congressional subcommittee in Washington, D.C., in 2006, when the first hearing about the memorial was held.

Motta has been searching for the grave of her grandmother for nearly 30 years, and she beheves a memorial listing the names of everyone sent there will not only honor and remember all the people of Kalaupapa, but provide family members and descendants with a place of pride and heating.

■ Valerie Monson is a former Maui News staff writer. She serves as coordinator for Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.



WAYNE LEVIN photo

Kalaupapa residents, family members and friends join together to dedicate the land where the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located.