

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

“RECOGNIZING THE SACRED ʻĀINA OF KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND KALAWAO COUNTY BY HONORING THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL AND THE UNWAVERING EFFORTS OF KA ʻOHANA O KALAUPAPA

WHEREAS, the Kalawao County has great natural beauty with rare endemic plants and animals along with ancient cultural and archaeology sites;

WHEREAS, the peninsula was once known for Kumanomano and ‘Ahapi‘i types of kapa, and Kalaupapa was also known for its fine grained white salt and fishing areas;

WHEREAS, because of Kalaupapa’s isolation, ‘āina ka‘awalei, it also became known as the ‘āina of kaumaha noho‘i and pilikia, land of deep sorrow, misery and hardship;

WHEREAS, on January 6, 1866, the first twelve of an estimated eight thousand leprosy patients arrived in Kalaupapa. They were taken from their families and forced into isolation;

WHEREAS, the original inhabitants of Kalaupapa played a critical role in helping these patients, who were abandoned with no support or supplies. The settlement grew and became overcrowded, the original inhabitants were ordered to leave the land they had occupied for generations;

WHEREAS, the last of the original people living in Kalaupapa were evicted in January 1895. Kalaupapa became the home and final resting place for many of the patient residents who remained;

WHEREAS, the naming process and the giving of a Hawaiian name is an important and sacred component of Hawaiian culture;

WHEREAS, names carry significant mana (spiritual power), and they are part of a person, just like an arm or a leg;

WHEREAS, a person’s name was one of the most precious possessions, unique to the individual, and, most times, related to an event, an ancestor, or a personality trait. In every case, the Kūpuna (elders) were always consulted;

WHEREAS, it was the responsibility of the bearer of the name to carry its weight. Therefore, it is important to remember people by their names at their final resting place;

WHEREAS, in 1980, Federal Public Law 96-565 established Kalaupapa National Historical Park to assist and support the community;

WHEREAS, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Kalaupapa Memorial Act, into law, as Public Law 111-11, directing the Secretary of the Interior to authorize Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and their family members and friends, to establish a Memorial which would display the names of the estimated 8,000 people sent to the peninsula because of government separation policies regarding leprosy;

WHEREAS, the Kalaupapa Memorial will list the names of each individual to illustrate and show the sheer enormity of the lives and families affected by the separation and to honor the individual identities of those sent to Kalaupapa who were often only referred to as a collective group of “patients” or identified in records by the number assigned to them by the government;

WHEREAS, Ka ‘Ohana has reconnected nearly 900 families with their Kalaupapa ‘ohana through their extremely successful program of "Restoration of Family Ties";

WHEREAS, Ka ‘Ōhana’s efforts in establishing Kalaupapa’s important historic Memorial is an important step toward recognizing and healing the tragic harms of the past;

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

WHEREAS, many Native Hawaiian ‘ohana had members exiled to Kalaupapa. Of the estimated 8,000 Hawai‘i citizens sent to Kalaupapa, 90% were Native Hawaiian;

WHEREAS, because many early residents were buried in unmarked graves and other markers have deteriorated over time or were washed out by the 1946 tsunami, only approximately 1,000 of the 8,000 buried at Kalaupapa have a grave that can be identified;

WHEREAS, the Memorial will have all 8,000 names inscribed for future generations to see and reconnect with their Kalaupapa ‘ohana;

WHEREAS, Bernard K. Punikai‘a, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1942 stated: You have to hear the voices to feel the people. You know their names. If you don’t say the names, it’s like something has been lost;

WHEREAS, the late Clarence “Boogie” Kahilihiwa, a patient resident at Kalaupapa and past President of Ka ‘Ohana Kalaupapa said, “When you see all the names on the Memorial, it will be like everyone from Kalawao and Kalaupapa is standing right there in front of you.”;

WHEREAS, the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located in the Kalawao Settlement area on the peninsula within the site of the former Baldwin Boys Home, which is where patient residents had intended it to be established;

WHEREAS, Ka ‘Ohana has received six historic preservation awards from Historic Hawai‘i Foundation for its preservation work at Kalaupapa;

WHEREAS, at a meeting on October 16, 2015, the State Land Use Commission officially approved a declaration attesting to the fact that the establishment of the Memorial is a permitted use on the State-owned Baldwin Boys Home land because it considers the establishment of the Memorial to be “an improvement to a site of historic or scenic interest,” as provided for under the law “HRS § 205-4.5(a)(8)”;

WHEREAS, the Memorial location is on ceded lands that provide the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a stakeholder interest in the land, and, as such, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports the Memorial and its design and deems it an appropriate use of this ceded land;

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs supports and honors Ka ‘Ohana and the patients, especially, in providing the wisdom for the way we shall commemorate those whose names will rest on the Memorial;

WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the importance of the relationships, and that emotional ties between past and present patients and generations of ‘ohana members are deeply sensitive matters; and,

WHEREAS, it is Hawaiian custom to look up to kūpuna, our elders, for guidance and instruction because of the wisdom they possess. Ka ‘Ohana had fulfilled that role.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the undersigned duly recognized as the board chair and trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, on the 18th day of August 2022, do set forth their hand to recognize the sacred ‘āina of Kalaupapa National Historical Park and Kalawao County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes the unwavering commitment, mālama and ‘ike of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa for the many projects helping the people of Kalaupapa, especially the Native Hawaiian Community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes how the commitment of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa has touched the lives of many and provided a path toward healing for the people of Kalaupapa, throughout the lāhui, in the State of Hawai‘i and beyond ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recognizes Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa’s vision, planning, funding and advocacy efforts will come to fruition upon the completion of the Kalaupapa Memorial within the Kalaupapa National Historical Park; and,

A Resolution of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa; United States Secretary of the Interior; Director of National Park Services; Hawai‘i’s U.S. Congressional Delegation; Chairperson of the State of Hawai‘i Board of Land and Natural Resources; Governor of the State of Hawai‘i; President of the Senate, State of Hawai‘i; Speaker of the House, State of Hawai‘i; Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs; Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs; State Senator for the Island of Moloka‘i; State Representative for the Island of Moloka‘i; Chair of the Maui County Council, and all County Mayors.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of August 2022, island of O‘ahu, State of Hawai‘i, by the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in its regular meeting assembled.

Carmen “Hulu” Lindsey
Chairperson, Trustee, Maui

Leina‘ala Ahu Isa, Ph.D.
Vice Chair, Trustee, At-large

Dan Ahuna
Trustee, Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau

Brendon Kalei‘aina Lee
Trustee, At-large

Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee, O‘ahu

Mililani B. Trask
Trustee, Hawai‘i

Keli‘i Akina, Ph.D.
Trustee, At-large

John D. Waihe‘e IV
Trustee, At-large

Luana Alapa
Trustee, Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i

Date: _____