



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

The Future of Kalaupapa

*Will the Voices of the
 People Finally Be Heard?*



DeGray Vanderbilt, a Board Member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, addresses an "informational briefing" by government agencies held in Kaunakakai recently about plans for Kalaupapa while holding a photo of the late Pauline Chow, longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana. Vanderbilt said the public has not been included in the years of planning for the future of Kalaupapa.

Photo: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



Over the past 21 years, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has held regular meetings to talk about various issues, including the future of Kalaupapa. All events open with pule to help everyone approach the discussions with aloha and respect for one another. Photo: Wayne Levin

In the mid-1990s, Kalaupapa leader Bernard K. Punikai'a was worried: what would the future of Kalaupapa look like when there were no longer any residents (patients) still living? Who would be planning the future? Who would be making the decisions?

Bernard's concern about the future was the driving force to form Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. It was Bernard's vision that family members and longtime friends join with Kalaupapa residents to make sure the future was planned as the residents wished, that their voices would be heard. Bernard's greatest fear was that the future of Kalaupapa would be shaped by newcomers who had little or no understanding of the history or the people.

Could Bernard's biggest fear become reality?

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A Message from Our President



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa President Charmaine Woodward and Vice President Pauline Ahulau Chow feed Pauline's cats at her home in Kalaupapa in this photo from 2019. Photo: Valerie Monson

In less than a month, our 'Ohana went from laughter and singing to loss and sorrow. On August 25, as the final event of our four-day tribute to Queen Kapi'olani, we gathered outside the Kalaupapa Care Home to celebrate the upcoming 90th birthday of Pauline Chow, our dear friend and longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Four weeks later, we learned she had died. I am writing this column with a broken heart — and a growing sense of urgency: we must inspire more descendants to join our 'Ohana to carry on the legacies of our kūpuna.

Fifteen years ago was the first time I set foot in Kalaupapa. There were still 20 residents living in Kalaupapa town; it was a different community. I sat and learned from them all, listening to their stories and hearing stories about my own tūtū Kamahana. When I joined the Board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa a year later, Auntie Pauline became my "shoulder" partner who I usually sat next to during our meetings.

With Pauline's passing, we have just seven residents remaining who have the right to live at Kalaupapa — four of them live in the settlement.

There is so much to do at Kalaupapa — not only now, but far into the future. I think of the stirring words of "E Na Kini" by Kalaupapa musician Ernest Kala:

"E nā kini o ka 'āina e ala mai, a e ala pū. E nā mamo o Hawai'i nei e ala mai, (a e ala pū)."

"Oh people of the land rise up, and rise up, Oh Hawaiian descendants rise up (and rise up together)."

Our Kalaupapa community will soon change forever. The voices and legacy of our kūpuna will be carried on and echoed by each of us, the people of the land, their descendants.

Our time to rise up and take action is now tasked with building 'ike on the imminent future of the sacred places of Kalawao, Makanalua, and Kalaupapa. Know your history, share your stories, attend meetings and make the voices of our ancestors known. Let's hui together to perpetuate and honor the legacy of our kūpuna. who have gone before us so more 'ohana can heal and continue the legacy of the people of Kalaupapa.

Aloha nō,

Charmaine Woodward, President

Pauline Chow: Wisdom and Aloha

Aloha 'Oe to a much-loved kūpuna

PAULINE AHULAU CHOW, a strong Hawaiian wahine and the longtime Vice President of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, died September 22, 2024, less than a month after her 90th birthday.

The 'Ohana Board paid tribute to Pauline at their next meeting. Director Sister Davilyn Ah Chick offered thanks to God.

"Thank you very much for Pauline's life and all the years she was part of our Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa Board of Directors and all the years she willingly shared her many God-given talents and abilities," said Sister Davilyn.

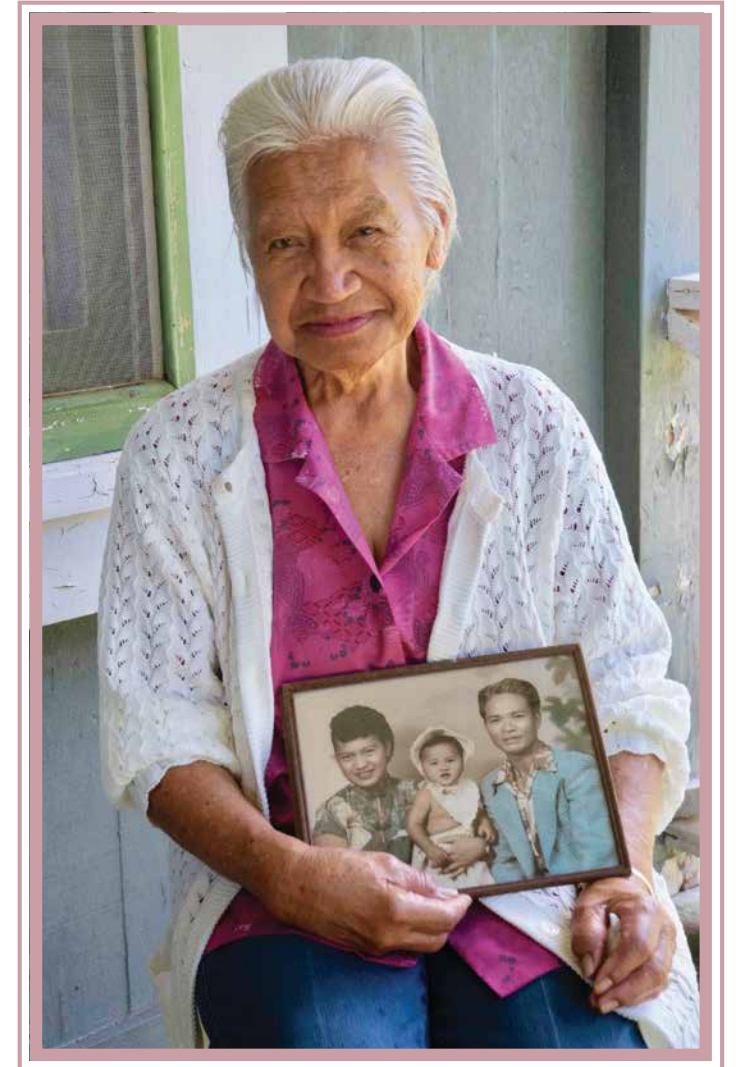
Pauline grew up on Hawai'i Island. Adventurous and brave, she landed a job before she was 25 that took her across the US Mainland and to Puerto Rico.

But she also experienced more than her share of sadness. Both parents died by the time she was 5 years old, and her three sisters were — one by one — diagnosed with leprosy and taken away, all of them eventually going to Kalaupapa.

Pauline realized that she had the disease in 1960 and willingly went to Hale Mohalu. There she met George Chow, her future husband. They transferred to Kalaupapa where Pauline became known for her love of music — she was called the Juke Box of Kalaupapa — and her love of words which made her a fierce Scrabble player.

A devout Catholic, Pauline was selected in 2012 as the only Kalaupapa resident to receive Holy Communion from Pope Benedict during the canonization ceremonies for Mother Marianne Cope in Rome.

Pauline was proud of her heritage and loved to share her knowledge of Hawaiian history, culture and language. Debbie Collard, a former nurse at Kalaupapa, was greatly influenced by her time with Pauline.



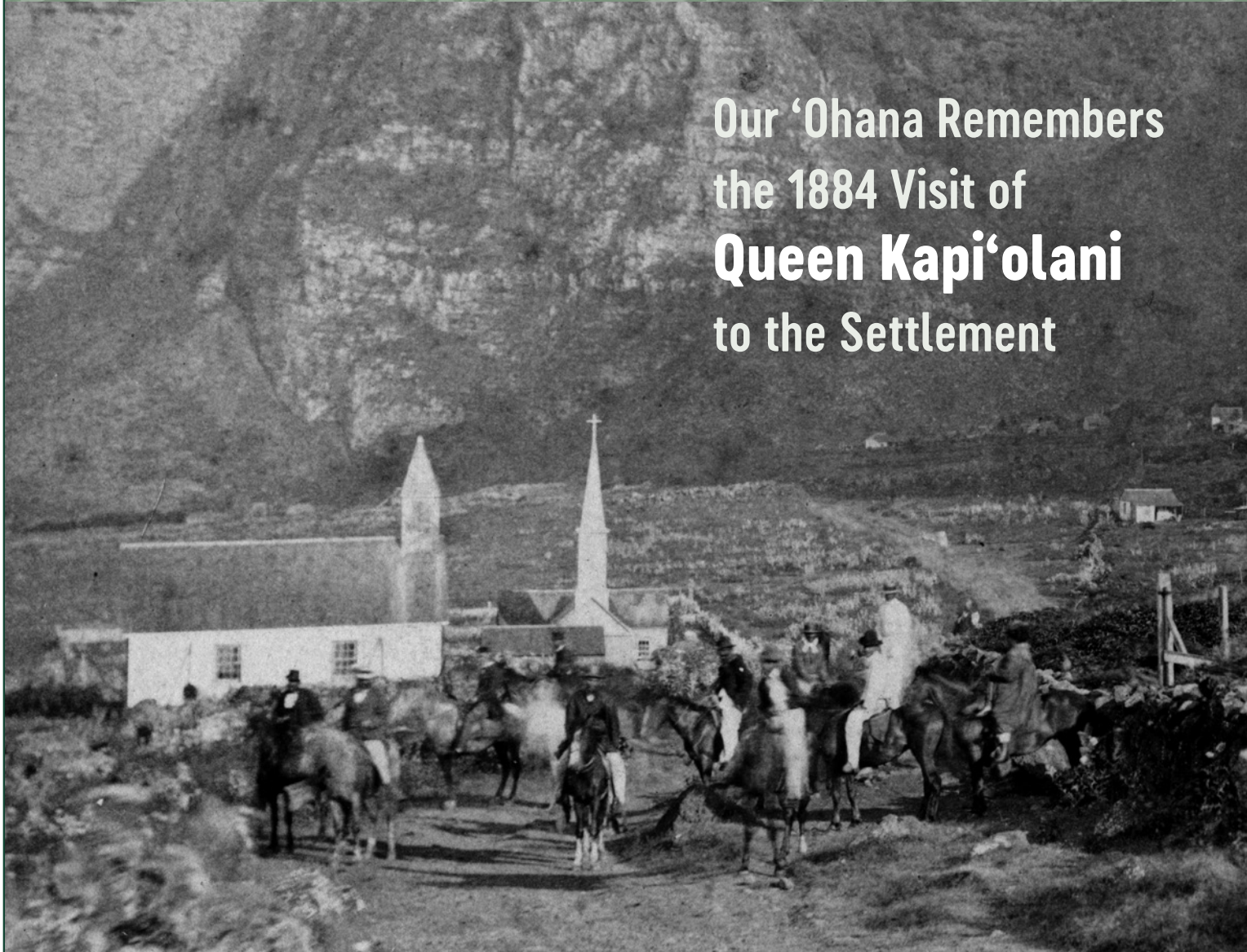
Pauline Ahulau Chow sits on the porch of her Kalaupapa home in this 2014 photo, holding a picture that she always kept on display in her living room of her sister, Frances Galarse, with Frances' husband, Januario Galarse, and Gwen, the niece of Frances and Pauline. Photo: Wayne Levin

"Pauline gave me a true appreciation of what it meant to be Hawaiian," recalled Debbie. "She knew I was hapa — as she would say — but made me proud of where I came from and made me want to continue to educate myself on the history, language and music."

Mahalo, Pauline, for your life of strength, wisdom and aloha.

Honoring a Queen Who Changed Kalaupapa

Our 'Ohana Remembers the 1884 Visit of Queen Kapi'olani to the Settlement



Queen Kapi'olani, then-Princess Liliu'okalani and others visited the settlement on July 21-22, 1884 to learn about the needs of the community. Hawaiian history professor Colette Higgins believes the Queen is in this photo, sitting side-saddle on the horse on the far right, next to the rock wall. Photo: Hawai'i State Archives

In the summer of 1884, a ship suddenly appeared — unannounced — off the shores of Kalaupapa with a surprise guest on board: Queen Kapi'olani. With her was then-Princess Liliu'okalani and other dignitaries from Oahu. Word swept across the peninsula: their Queen was at Kalaupapa!

The two-day visit would change the course of the settlement. This was to be no ceremonial appearance by Kapi'olani. She was there to work: to hear her people and to address their concerns, to make life better for them. She would not fail.

This past August, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa commemorated the 140th anniversary of this historic visit by the Queen

and her party. Over four days, Ka 'Ohana held educational programs for the community along with other activities to remember this often-forgotten event.

"There were times when I felt that the Queen herself was among us," said Ka 'Ohana President Charmaine Woodward whose great-grandparents were sent to Kalaupapa.

The Queen was vividly brought to life by Hawaiian history professor Colette Higgins who, for nearly 25 years, has made it her mission to delve into the life of Kapi'olani and share her lesser-known story with the world.

But of the countless times that Colette has made these kinds of presentations, walking in the Queen's footsteps

at Kalaupapa with Charmaine and other descendants made history feel like it was unfolding in real time.

"This is probably as close as I'm going to get to the way that Kapi'olani would have experienced it, right?" said Colette. "Because the descendants have discovered stories of their family members, it makes for a different experience, just being with them."

"This is where their ancestors lived, this is where they walked. For me, being with the descendants added a whole different dimension to it."

The descendants — Charmaine, Desiree McKillip, Georgette Kealoha, Tehani Hinkley, Lopaka Ho'opi'i and his son, Loa'a — brought along the spirit of their ancestors.

"This is our roots, this is our beginning," said Desiree whose great-grandfather, M.K. Makaena, was sent to Kalaupapa in 1889. "To think we are walking the grounds where our great-grandfather walked is just so very emotional. And even though he was not here when the Queen visited, it's like he's here with us."

Kapi'olani visited every house on the peninsula and those in the hospital, asking about the problems they faced, asking what they needed.

She was there to work:
to hear her people and to address their concerns, to make life better for them.

She would not fail.

The Queen traveled the rugged peninsula on horseback and, as Colette pointed out, she rode side-saddle. Nearly 50 years old at the time, Kapi'olani showed incredible stamina and strength, even navigating the rocky shoreline into remote Waikolu Valley to see the area that could be the source of fresh drinking water to the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula.

When she returned to Honolulu, Kapi'olani wasted no time. She arranged for pipes to be shipped to construct a potable water system to connect Waikolu with Kalaupapa, enabling nearly everyone to move from cold, wet Kalawao to the warmer climate of Kalaupapa.

The Queen also sent lumber to build much-needed housing and organized individual packages of personal items to be sent to each person at Kalaupapa. She established the Kapi'olani Home for Girls in Honolulu to care for girls born at Kalaupapa.

The summer of 1884: an often-forgotten time at Kalaupapa when a Queen listened to the people and took action to help, a time that came alive in the summer of 2024, thanks to Colette Higgins and the descendants of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.



Colette Higgins has spent nearly 25 years researching the life of Queen Kapi'olani and bringing to light her mostly unknown story and impressive accomplishments. Photo: Valerie Monson



During the four days of events organized by Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to honor Queen Kapi'olani, Colette Higgins presented two narrated slide shows for the community. Both programs were held in St. Francis Hall at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

TO LEARN MORE:

See the webinar about Queen Kapi'olani and Kalaupapa by Colette Higgins on the website at: www.kalaupapaohana.org

Back at KALAUPAPA



Norma Todd places a lei on the tombstone of her great-grandfather, Pin Kau Ching, who is buried in the Chinese Cemetery outside of Kalaupapa town. Photo: Valerie Monson



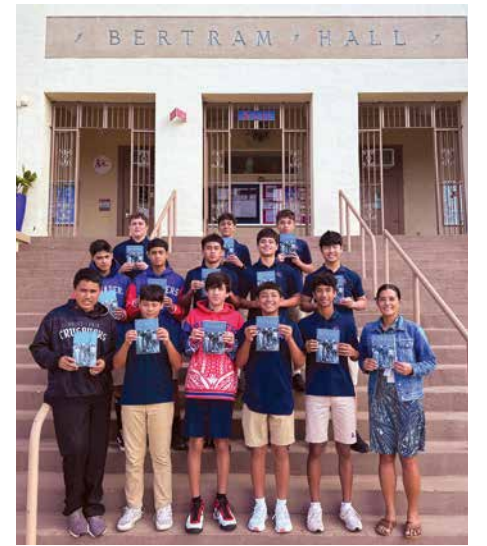
Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa held four community events at Kalaupapa this year, including three educational programs, meals, singalongs and discussions. A narrated slide show about "The Living Tombstones of Kalaupapa" was attended by nearly 30 Kalaupapa residents, workers and guests in July. Photo: DeGray Vanderbilt



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa commemorated Kalaupapa Month at Kalaupapa on January 6 with a remembrance day to honor the first 12 people sent to Kalaupapa on that day in 1866. Included with the events was a walk to Kalawao where we thought of the lonely journey of those first 12 individuals. Photo: Valerie Monson



Antone Aku, whose great-uncle is buried at Kalaupapa, presented plumeria blossoms at the ahu of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Valerie Monson



To observe Kalaupapa Month last January, the students of Kumu Kawai Bluhm read "The True Story of Kalaupapa as Told by His Wife Piilani." Photo: Courtesy St. Louis School



Pauline Chow's Birthday Party Photo: Charmaine Woodward



Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa invited the community to celebrate the 90th birthday of Vice President Pauline Chow during the Queen Kapi'olani weekend in August. Sadly, Pauline unexpectedly died a month later. Photo: Anne Farahi



From right: Kalaupapa resident John Arruda, Ka 'Ohana Board Member DeGray Vanderbilt, St. Louis School Principal Timothy Los Banos and St. Louis alumni Ryan Hurley at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

In 2024, Ka 'Ohana ramped up activities after years of COVID restrictions

One of the hardships that resulted from the COVID-19 restrictions, was the strict limitations on visitors at Kalaupapa. Unable to conduct our face-to-face programs with the Kalaupapa community or help descendants visit the land of their ancestors, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa had to retool our outreach to virtual activities only.

In 2024, things began getting back to normal . . . although a new normal. Ka 'Ohana was excited to hold four community events at Kalaupapa, brought in descendants who had never before visited the land of their ancestors and organized a birthday celebration for Kalaupapa resident and Ka 'Ohana Vice President Pauline Chow.

But challenges remain. Ground transportation for bigger groups is

difficult because of the scarcity of large vans available to the community. Two smaller vans are privately owned, including one by Ka 'Ohana which was purchased to replace the bigger, older vehicle which fell into disrepair during the COVID years. There is also less visitor housing available.

This means it's not yet possible to return to the days of the large annual gatherings Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa once hosted. Ka 'Ohana appreciates the Department of Health working with us to streamline the process for descendants to visit the settlement under the supervision of 'Ohana leaders.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Kalaupapa community on moving forward in whatever ways we can with respect to the wishes of the residents.



St. Francis Church always welcomes families from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa to Sunday Mass. Photo: Valerie Monson



One of the highlights of any visit to Kalaupapa is taking in the view from the overlook on the edge of Kalawao, looking toward Waikolu Valley, the towering pali of the North Shore of Molokai and the islets of Mōkapu and 'Okāla. Photo: Charmaine Woodward.



Ka 'Ohana holds educational presentations at our Kalaupapa house whenever we can. Photo: Charmaine Woodward

WE MUST PERSEVERE

In the summer of 2022, the Kalaupapa Memorial reached a milestone when the State Legislature unanimously approved \$5 million to plan and build this long-awaited dream of the people of Kalaupapa. Governor David Ige signed the legislation into law.

More than two years later, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is still waiting for the first distribution of the funds to be released. This past October, the State Department of Health gave Ka 'Ohana a 63-page draft contract to review and accept. As this newsletter was being written, our 'Ohana leaders and attorneys were appraising the contract. We are hoping this is the start of a path forward.

Ka 'Ohana has also been presented with new requirements by the National Park Service and the Department of Land and Natural Resources before the Memorial can be built. Leaders of Ka 'Ohana have been involved in numerous meetings to satisfy these prerequisites — and get the Memorial constructed.

It has been exhausting and, at times, frustrating, but we must continue to persevere and rest assured that the spirit of the people who will be remembered on the Memorial will prevail. We look forward to continued progress with the government agencies so we can dedicate the Memorial while there are still residents living at Kalaupapa.



This "Hope" rock rests upon the ahu at the site of the Kalaupapa Memorial. The stone was painted by Pi'olani Motta, a staunch supporter of the Kalaupapa Memorial who has family members buried at Kalaupapa. Pi'olani died in 2020. Photo: Charmaine Woodward

Kalaupapa resident John Arruda proved, yet again, that he is one-of-a-kind: On April 12, 2024, surrounded by family, friends and a congratulatory video from the Governor, John celebrated his 100th birthday.

He is believed to be the first person to turn 100 after being sent to Kalaupapa.

John, who grew up on Kauai, was ordered to Kalaupapa at the age of 21 in 1945 because he had leprosy. In an interview with Valerie Monson, he recalled that first day as clearly as yesterday.

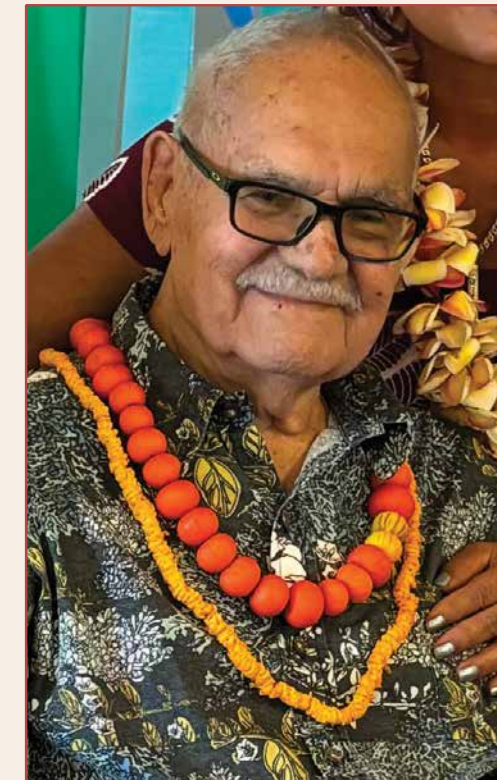
"You look at the cliff, the ocean — and you have no one," said John. "I remember thinking 'You've got to take care of yourself because no one else is going to take care of you.'"

“You just have to accept what’s happened to you, . . . You have to accept it and move forward.”

John has done just that. He exercises every day, watches what he eats, remains positive and appreciates the good genetics of his long living 'ohana. As a result, he still lives independently in his home at Kalaupapa, drives his pickup anywhere he wants, stays in touch with family and friends — and looks 25 years younger than what his birth certificate says.

The key to his good life happened during those first few years at Kalaupapa. Young John had to rely on his mental strength and faith, acknowledging the new reality that he could not change. He had to find new hope.

"You just have to accept what's happened to you," Arruda continued during his interview with Valerie. "You have to accept it and move forward."



John Arruda at his birthday party. Photo: Debbie Piper

That's what I did because . . . you have to. You do other things. You play sports, you go to church, you have your friends."

Arruda's life is a lesson for all of us: accept the adversities and heartbreaks that we all face at some point. After releasing the pain or anger, accept what you can't change and find a way to move forward.

At age 100, John Arruda is grateful and filled with grace.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," he said softly. "I thank God for my life, I thank my family, I thank my friends. I give thanks for Kalaupapa."

The Future of Kalaupapa:

Will the Voices of the People Finally Be Heard?



A longstanding tradition of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is our Circle of Remembrance, held at most of our events at the future site of the Kalaupapa Memorial where Kalaupapa residents, descendants and friends hold hands and speak aloud the names of loved ones at Kalaupapa who have died. Photo: Wayne Levin

Continued from page 1

Even though Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has held numerous discussions about the future of Kalaupapa since organizing in 2003 and even developed a 28-page Position Paper with ideas to manage the land and preserve the history, plans about the "transition" of Kalaupapa have been limited to a transitional planning team consisting solely of government officials who are mostly meeting in Honolulu.

Leaders of Ka 'Ohana and descendants of Kalaupapa have not been consulted about the future of Kalaupapa—requests to join the government leaders on the transition team have been denied. The upper Molokai community which has a longstanding interest in what happens at Kalaupapa has not been included — neither have the Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries who have thoughts on opening up homestead lands on the peninsula.

There are now just seven individuals who have the right to live at Kalaupapa — those people who were affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease. Four of them still live in the settlement .

In early October, leaders of the State Department of Health, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Department of Transportation held an "informational briefing" in Kaunakakai where they heard the frustrations of the public.

"My takeaway is that the community has demanded to have a space at the table of decision-making," Maui County Councilwoman Keani-Rawlins Fernandez told *Hawai'i News Now* after the meeting.

Rawlins-Fernandez and State Representative Mahina Poepoe intend to make that happen. The two



Monica Bacon, great-great niece of Kalaupapa unsung hero Ambrose Hutchison, leads a discussion about the Kalaupapa Memorial at the 2016 annual meeting. 'Ohana meetings and events are always open to anyone at Kalaupapa and invited guests. Photo: Wayne Levin



Lopaka Ho'opi'i, whose father was born at Kalaupapa, makes a point during a session of an annual meeting. Lopaka would like to see Kalaupapa opened to homesteading in the future. Photo: Wayne Levin

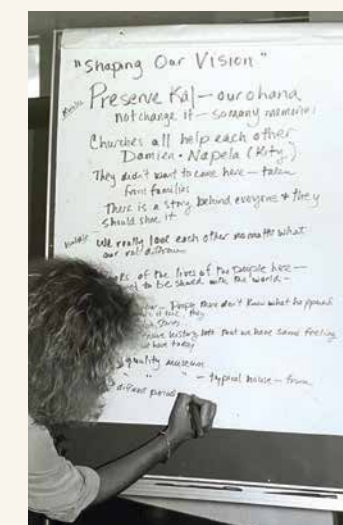
elected Molokai leaders announced they would form a Working Group that will include other voices to discuss the future of Kalaupapa — finally giving many knowledgeable members of the community a chance to weigh in. Government officials will be welcome to join.

The Working Group is expected to have its first meeting before the end of the year. There are numerous questions about the future of Kalaupapa that have yet to be discussed:

- Although Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980, what happens when the State Department of Health leaves following the death of the last resident (patient)? Will the federal government be in full control of Kalaupapa with possibly no accountability to anyone else?
- Will a local, non-government group have a leading role to provide oversight of government operations at Kalaupapa and be involved in shaping policies?
- Will homesteading be permitted on the nearly 1,300 acres of Hawaiian Homelands at Kalaupapa?
- If the federal government leaves, where will the money come from to manage Kalaupapa, maintain the buildings and provide support for a new community? Will Kalawao County continue or will the peninsula become part of Maui County?
- How will tourism be handled?
- Will the lands of Kalaupapa be returned to the Hawaiian people?

All these questions need to be vetted. Since 2003, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has urged government leaders to not only discuss these issues with the community, but to listen to them for guidance and direction. In fact, the theme of the 2004 annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana was "We Want to Be Part of the Process."

Finally, that might happen.



In 2005, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa devoted its annual meeting to gathering thoughts and ideas about the future of Kalaupapa. This two-day discussion led to the National Park Service's decision to develop a General Management Plan for the future of Kalaupapa. Photo: Wayne Levin



'Aina Akamu, whose grandparents were sent to Kalaupapa and are buried there, leads a Remembrance Ceremony at the ahu which will become the piko (center) of the Kalaupapa Memorial. Photo: Wayne Levin



During a leadership workshop several years ago, participants described how the values and objectives of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa would lead to our collective kuleana to remember the people of Kalaupapa. Photo: Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa



Kalaupapa residents have long provided the heart, soul and wisdom behind our 'Ohana during our many discussions over the years: (from left): Winnie Harada (sitting), Pauline Chow, and John Arruda with Noelani Kauahikaua, Pauline's relative (in the middle). Photo: Wayne Levin

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau. . .

. . . To Honor and To Perpetuate"

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Aloha 'oe Pauline Chow

Mele Kalikimaka from Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Peace On Earth



Santa Claus takes a break from his annual visit to Kalaupapa to relax by the ocean while sending thoughts of good will and peace to all.

Photo: Valerie Monson

Support Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and relies on donations from supporters like you to enable our programs to grow. Your tax-deductible contributions will help us reconnect more descendants to their Kalaupapa ancestors, continue and expand our educational programs, establish the Kalaupapa Memorial and more. Please consider a donation to the 'Ohana.

Mahalo in advance.

Send your donations to:

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Or donate by visiting our 'Ohana website

www.kalaupapaohana.org



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