

# The 'Ohana Needs Your Support



Rock Painting by Ed Kato

*"I see a vision of the 'Ohana connecting the past, present and future."*

— Boogie Kahilihiwa

*"I love our kupuna - that's what this community is all about. Our people are the teachers here - the things they've learned from the lives they've lived. They are living treasures and we are blessed to be with them."*

— Ellen Storm Rycraft

*"There's a feeling of ho'omau - no matter what, preserve."*

— Marco Jordan

## Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

*"E Ho'ohanohano a E Ho'omau. . .  
... To Honor and To Perpetuate"*

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on donations to carry out our mission of honoring the people of Kalaupapa and perpetuating their legacy. Please help in any way you can. Mahalo.

\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

\$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

You can help by sending your tax-deductible contributions to:

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[www.kalaupapaohana.org](http://www.kalaupapaohana.org)



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***"To look out over this room and see my Kalaupapa 'ohana surrounded by so many family members and friends makes my heart feel good."***

— Bernard K. Punikai'a, welcoming the overflow crowd that became the founders of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa.



Catherine Puahala (r) and her daughter, Pauline Puahala Hess, have been spending more time together since Pauline moved back to Hawaii from the Mainland. Photos: Wayne Levin



Jean Shimose places flowers on the grave of her uncle, Kenso Seki. Jean did not know about Kenso until only a few years before his death, but was able to become a part of his life during that time. Kenso was one of Kalaupapa's most outstanding citizens who died in 1998.

**Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa** was established in August, 2003, as a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of every individual who was exiled to the Kalaupapa peninsula beginning in 1866. 'Ohana members include the patients of Kalaupapa who were sent here many years ago, family members, friends, state officials, interested citizens and others who have had a longtime interest in the future of Kalaupapa and her residents. With the population of Kalaupapa decreasing and similar facilities around the world being closed, it was deemed of vital importance to bring together people who would support and help do what is necessary to ensure that the remaining patients will be able to live out their lives in this, their home, and have the assurance that their history will be preserved and passed down for the education and inspiration of present and future generations.

Our masthead was designed by Kalaupapa artist Henry Nalaelua.

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## A Message from our President

### The 'Ohana Board of Directors

**Bernard K. Punikai'a**  
Honorary Chairman of the Board

Kuulei Bell  
President

Winifred Harada  
Vice President

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Gloria Marks  
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Director

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Director

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Director

Sister Alicia Damien Lau  
OSF, Director

Patrick Boland  
Director



President Kuulei Bell and Sol Kaho'ohalahala, a member of the 'Ohana board of directors who has family at Kalaupapa. Photo: Valerie Monson

*"I am so proud to be a part of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. This organization is wonderful—it's not just patients, but it's family members and people who have supported us for so many years. We are one 'ohana, working together to make life better for the patients and to preserve the history so people in the future will remember those who have passed on. We have to remember the history of all of us who were sent here, we have to remember the families who we had to leave and the families who might not even know about us. I hope this organization grows and becomes even stronger, and that more people learn about their family members at Kalaupapa."*

— Kuulei Bell, Kalaupapa postmistress and leader of the Kalaupapa Mormon community who was taken from her family and sent to Kalaupapa. in 1950.

### Are you looking for an ancestor at Kalaupapa?

The 'Ohana wants to hear from you so we can help. We can provide information that should get you on the path to finding any ancestors you might have had at Kalaupapa. The 'Ohana believes that the descendents of Kalaupapa will eventually become one of our organization's greatest strengths.

Please contact us at [info@kalaupapaohana.org](mailto:info@kalaupapaohana.org) and let us help you bring home your Kalaupapa ancestors. They are not lost. . . they are waiting for you.

## 'Ohana Connections



Makia Malo (left) and Ian Chun at the 2004 'Ohana annual meeting at Kalaupapa Photo: Valerie Monson

Until just a few years ago, 28-year-old Ian Chun had no idea he had ties to Kalaupapa. Now, those ties have multiplied – and grown even stronger. Not long after Chun learned that his great-uncle Isaac Keao, was buried at Kalaupapa, he became the second recipient of the annual Ann and Makia Malo Scholarship that helped him attend medical school. "When I first saw my uncle's grave, it was just an overwhelming feeling," said Chun, who was raised in Haleiwa on Oahu. "When I touched it, I felt this mana, a kind of peace, like I had returned

and gotten a blessing from my uncle. I just started crying. I could barely stand up, but it was a wonderful feeling. It was kind of like I had come home."

Chun's ties to the community were only just beginning. One Sunday morning in 2002, he was startled to hear a beautiful voice chanting outside his home. He opened the door to find Makia Malo, clutching a bouquet of balloons, with the news that Chun had been selected to receive a scholarship to help him attain his goal of becoming a doctor.

"When I met him in the driveway, again, it was that overwhelming feeling, but also one of peace, like I was being told that I was on the right path," said Chun. "Getting to know Makia has been so incredible, it's like I have another uncle and I'm part of another 'ohana. Every time I see him, it's like renewing that family bond." Malo and his wife, Ann, began awarding their annual scholarships in 2001 to Native Hawaiians who want to study medicine, dentistry or law. Last year, Chun strengthened his ties to Kalaupapa when he attended the two-day annual meeting of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. He's proud to be a young adult who is committed to help the community today and to be involved in the preservation of the history.

"The 'Ohana represents another link, another extension of what I'm learning about my uncle and his family at Kalaupapa," said Chun. "I want to be part of that family now. I want to make sure the knowledge and the stories of the elders here are passed down to the next generation."

Chun, a graduate of The Kamehameha Schools and Stanford University, has started his fourth year of medical school at the University of Hawaii. He hopes to graduate in May and begin his residency soon after. Is there a chance he could someday be a doctor at Kalaupapa, caring for the kupuna he so admires?

"That would be fantastic," he said.

*"I think even people in the way, way past need their families to come to Kalaupapa. I hear those voices every time I'm here. I want the families to come back and to speak to them."*

— Pauline Puahala Hess

## Reaching Out to Families

One of the goals of the 'Ohana is to reach out to family members who are trying to find their roots at Kalaupapa. Many descendents are now coming to Kalaupapa to complete their family trees and find out as much information as possible about ancestors they might not have known about.

Before the 'Ohana was created, Puna Ramos had already started to fill this need. Over the years, Puna, who was married to a Kalaupapa patient and has been a volunteer for the National Park Service, has helped dozens of people find pictures, stories and graves of their family members. The state Department of Health has also assisted families searching for vital information.

A few years ago, the family of Rosina Weber first learned that she had been sent to Kalaupapa in the early 1900s. With Puna's help, Rosina's descendents were able to piece together part of her story and two of her great-granddaughters who live on Maui, Bunnie Reeser and Marilyn Cleghorn, have become active members of the 'Ohana. Although they were unable to find Rosina's grave during a visit to Kalaupapa, the family gathered around a tombstone without a name to present their floral tributes and offer a prayer in her memory. (top right photo)

Native Hawaiians Chris and David Mahelona (bottom right photo) now live in Washington, but through the internet, became acquainted with Anwei Law and Valerie Monson as they searched for information about their family members: David's father and uncle were at Hale Mohalu and Kalaupapa. The Mahelonas visited Kalaupapa in 2005 and their

lives were changed by the power of the history and the people. They have also discovered that other ancestors were sent to Kalaupapa, including Jonathan Napela, the leader of the early Mormon community at Kalawao. The Mahelonas have become strong supporters of the 'Ohana.



Photo: Don Reeser



Photo: courtesy of David and Chris Mahelona

*When I first came to Kalaupapa about 10 years ago, I was changed in one day because my family was here. I cried the whole time.*

— Sol Kaho'ohalahala

## The 'Ohana Mission Statement

**Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa.** Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, an 'ohana of Kalaupapa patients, their family members and friends, is dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of every individual exiled to Kalaupapa since 1866. As an 'ohana, we cherish and look for guidance from our kupuna of Kalaupapa and we believe in the values of aloha, lokahi, malama, kokua, and pono. The goal of the 'Ohana is to ensure that the state and federal laws are carried out to guarantee that all patients can live out their lives in Kalaupapa with all the necessary support and services. We will also work with and serve as a resource for other entities to help shape the community's future, assist with the interpretation of history, educate the public and make certain that the legacy of Kalaupapa will remain a living inspiration and testament for generations to come.

## Vision Statement

Together, members of the 'Ohana will:

**Honor with pride** the people who were exiled to Kalaupapa;

**Always remember** how the world has been enriched through the legacy of the lives of the people of Kalaupapa, their experiences and their contributions to society;

**Work in partnership** to ensure that the Kalaupapa patients can remain in their homes and live out their lives with a level of staff support and quality of services to maintain their comfort, health and dignity;

**Serve as a resource** to the state Department of Health, the National Park Service and other agencies on issues affecting the community now and in the future to preserve, protect and perpetuate the history, the way of life, the values, the cultural heritage and the environment;

**Assist** those individuals who want to find out more information about their family members who were banished to Kalaupapa;

**Educate** staff, visitors and the public at large through programs, brochures and outreach sessions;

**Combat prejudice**, discrimination, segregation, rejection, the use of derogatory terminology and the stigma associated with leprosy through support, respect, dignity and public awareness programs;

**Remind** the public that human rights are a basic part of life, guaranteed to every person.



\* PONO \* DIRECTION \* UNDERSTANDING \* COMMUNICATION \* CHERISH \* EFFORT \* LOVE \* UNITY \* REMEMBER \*  
 \* LOKAHI \* JUSTICE \* EDUCATE \* DIGNITY \* HOPE FOR THE BEST \* MALAMA \* CULTURAL HERITAGE \* PROMOTE \*  
 \* CONSERVATION \* HO'OPONOPOONO \* COMMITMENT \* AWARENESS \*  
 \* PERPETUATE \* DEDICATION \* ENVIRONMENT \* LIVING MONUMENT \*  
 \* GETTING ALONG \* HUMILITY \* RESPECT \* HONOR \* COMPASSION \* LEGACY \* ADVOCATE \* COMMUNITY \* MANA \*  
 \* ALOHA \* EMPOWERMENT \* PERSEVERANCE \* SUPPORT \* INTEGRITY \* TRUST IN THE LORD \* FAMILY \* CONTINUITY \*

## Guiding principles of Ka 'Ohana o Kalaupapa

During our initial workshop, participants were asked to express, in a single word or phrase, what they hoped the 'Ohana would stand for and represent. That list of words, located around the border of these pages, will serve as our building blocks and help form the foundation of the mission statement and our goals.



Bernard K. Punikai'a, honorary chairman of the board of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, entertained the crowd gathered for the 2003 workshop that officially established the organization. Longtime friend Wally Inglis holds the microphone. Photo: Wayne Levin



Wesley Hori stands in front of the cross at the top of Kauhako Crater on the Kalaupapa peninsula that his grandfather, Henry Hori, was instrumental in building. Although the cross was constructed more than 50 years ago, Wesley and other Hori descendents only recently learned the story. The family has now become a part of maintaining the cross to keep Henry Hori's memory alive.



This man wearing a hat may be unknown at this time, but he is part of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Maybe someday we will learn who he is - and perhaps find his family. Photo: courtesy of IDEA

*"I bring my past with me, our lives are the message that we give. All the kids I grew up with in Kalaupapa. In honoring our past, it behooves us to bring honor to them. I honor them. I honor everyone else. Ua pau."*

— Makia Malo

*"Maintaining Kalaupapa is an obligation under justice, not an option under charity."*

— Pat Boland

*"That's my Dad!"*

— the late David

Kupele Jr., a well-known musician who was born in Kalaupapa, as he watched a video interview with his father, David Kupele



Elaine Remigio celebrates at the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York with her sister, Mary Carmack. Elaine was one of several women from Kalaupapa who were placed into the Hall of Fame's "Book of Lives and Legacies" in 2002. Photo: Valerie Monson



An unidentified musician from Kalaupapa's past, draped in leis, poses with his elegant violin. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa was formed to honor and to perpetuate the memories of all the 8,000 people who were exiled to the peninsula. Photo: courtesy of IDEA



The two-day annual meetings of the 'Ohana have drawn large crowds with lively discussions that have ended with the overall feeling of unity and aloha. Photo: Wayne Levin



Winifred Harada, who served as the first vice president of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, shares her mana'o with the crowd. Photo: Wayne Levin



John Arruda cares for the grave of his father, John Arruda Sr. The younger Arruda has long urged that the graveyards be properly cared for to show respect and love for the Kalaupapa kupuna who have passed away. Photo: Wayne Levin