

In Support of a Names Memorial at Kalaupapa

*Proposed for Adoption by the 195th `Aha Pae`aina
Hawai`i Conference United Church of Christ*

Introduction

This resolution is sponsored by the Hawai`i Conference Council, which adopted it on March 4, 2017, and recommends it for approval by the `Aha Pae`aina of the Hawai`i Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The resolution affirms the efforts made thus far toward a memorial listing the names of the over 8,000 persons sent to Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy, now called Hansen's Disease.

The resolution also encourages churches and individuals to support the memorial by observing Kalaupapa Sunday and making donations toward the erection and maintenance of the memorial.

Resolution

Whereas the outbreak of Hansen's Disease led to the forced exile of over 8,000 persons, beginning in 1866 and ending in 1969, to Makanalua, now known as Kalaupapa, a remote peninsula on Moloka`i; and,

Whereas many of these patients were members of churches in the Hawaiian Evangelical Association (now Hawai`i Conference United Church of Christ), and whose family members today are members of Hawai`i Conference congregations; and,

Whereas the churches of Siloama and Kana`ana Hou have faithfully served the physical and spiritual needs of the patients from the beginning to the present day; and,

Whereas the 191st `Aha Pae`aina (2013) of the Hawai`i Conference established an annual Kalaupapa Sunday to remember the history of Kalaupapa and the stories of the patients, and the suggested day for this observance is the last Sunday in January, recognizing that the first patients arrived at Kalawao in the month of January 1866; and,

Whereas Ka Ohana O Kaluapapa, a community-wide advocacy group for the patients of Kalauapa, listened to the wishes and dreams of patients who, in order not to be forgotten, expressed a strong desire for some way to honor the lives and stories of all patients, and then worked long and tirelessly to gain interest in and support for a memorial to be erected in Kalaupapa; and,

Whereas the Kalaupapa Memorial Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2009, authorizes Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish a Memorial listing the names of those who were sent to Kalaupapa as a result of government policies regarding Hansen's Disease; and,

Whereas all work on necessary approvals for a site and the conceptual design of the Memorial have now been completed, and Ka `Ohana O Kalupapa has begun the next phase of fundraising and groundbreaking; and,

Whereas the Hawai`i Conference has already supported the memorial plan through financial contributions and public support made from the start and continuing to the present;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 195th `Aha Pae`aina, meeting at Kamehameha Schools Maui on June 16-17, 2017, commends Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa for its extraordinary efforts in establishing a Memorial honoring all the patients of Kalaupapa and pledges its ongoing support to the successful completion of the Memorial; and,

Be it further resolved that the 195th `Aha Pae`aina encourages all members and friends of churches in the Hawai`i Conference to show their support of the Memorial by learning more about the history of Kalaupapa and exploring their own personal connections to ancestors who may have been patients; to share the story of Kalaupapa by observing Kalaupapa Sunday annually; and to make contributions to Ka `Ohana O Kalaupapa to assure that the Memorial is finally established and maintained for the benefit of all future generations.

Suggested implementation for this resolution is all local churches and the Justice and Witness Missional Team.