

# THE HISTORY OF LEPROSY/ HANSEN'S DISEASE IN HAWAII

## SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE, EVENTS & DATES

Between 1866 and 1969, an estimated 8,000 individuals, at least 90% of whom were Native Hawaiian, were separated from their family and friends and sent to the Makanalua peninsula, commonly known as Kalaupapa. The oldest was 105, the youngest was 4.



Taken in 1884, this photo is probably of the visit of Queen Kapi'olani and her party. In her studies of the Queen and this visit, historian Colette Higgins has speculated that Queen Kapi'olani is the woman on the horse at the far right. *IDEA Archives*





Two as yet unidentified young girls, Kalaupapa, c. early 1900s. *IDEA Archives*

*“... the faces of my beloved husband and child came before me, and my tears began to flow and I was overwhelmed with grief-- who would not be -- seeing the power of the government come hither to sever the sacred knot of holy marriage, and cutting the golden cord between parents and child.”*

-- Piilani, expressing her profound grief at the thought that her husband Kaluaikoolau and son Kaleimanu would be separated from her because they had leprosy. *The True Story of Kaluaikoolau. Translated from Hawaiian by Frances N. Frazier*



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**1835:** Leprosy is observed in Kamuli, a Hawaiian woman living at Koloa, Kauai. This represents the first documented case of leprosy in Hawaii.

**1850:** Hawaii's first Board of Health is established primarily to deal with the problem of cholera but increasingly finds itself engaged in the discussion of leprosy.

**1864:** Joseph De Veuster arrives in Honolulu on March 19. He is ordained on May 31 in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu and is known as Father Damien. Shortly thereafter he is sent the island of Hawaii where he spends the next nine years.

**1865:** “An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy” is signed into law by King Kamehameha V on January 3 and authorizes the setting apart of land for the purpose of isolating persons with leprosy.

On November 13, the Kalihi Hospital is opened near Honolulu for the treatment of persons suspected of having the disease, individuals who have a milder form of the disease, and persons who are waiting to be sent to Kalaupapa.

**1866:** The first group of individuals with leprosy, nine men and three women, is sent to Kalaupapa on January 6. J.D. Kahauliko, J.N. Loe, Lili'i, Puha, Kini, Lono, Waipio, Kainana, Kaaumoana, Nahuina, Lakapu and Kepihe are landed on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula and walk approximately two and a half miles to the Kalawao side where the first settlement is located. At least five family members accompany them as kokua. They are also assisted by the kamaaina.

In June, 35 persons, including J.D. Kahauliko, Lono and Nahuina, gather together to organize the congregation of Siloama. In December, Rev. Anderson O. Forbes and Rev. S.W. Nueku travel to Kalawao to assist with the formal organization of the church, which takes place on December 23.



**1870:** Leprosy is legally recognized as grounds for divorce.

**1871:** Siloama, “The Church of the Healing Spring,” is dedicated at Kalawao.

**1872:** Brother Victorin Bertrand builds a wooden chapel in Honolulu and transports it to Kalawao. It is blessed on May 30 and dedicated to St. Philomena. The church is expanded by Father Damien and is commonly known as “Father Damien’s Church.”

**1873:** Dr. G.H.A. Hansen, a Norwegian scientist, discovers the leprosy bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae*. This discovery proves that leprosy is caused by a bacillus and is, consequently, infectious rather than hereditary.

Close to 500 families are separated in 1873 as a result of the government’s heightened efforts to enforce the isolation of people with leprosy. Housing is inadequate and food now has to be provided for more than 800 people.



Jonathan Napela. Photograph by Charles R. Savage, c. 1869. *BYU-Hawai'i Archives*

*“I do humbly petition the Board of Health in their kindly parental affection to consent that I live with my wedded wife, as a kokua, for these reasons: On the 3rd day of August, 1843, I took my woman to live with me as wedded wife. On this day I swore before God to care for the wife in time of health and in sickness, and that only death would separate us. . . .”*

-- Jonathan Napela, letter to the Board of Health, October 23, 1873. (*Hawaii State Archives*) Translated from Hawaiian by Frances N. Frazier

*“In fulfillment of my duties as priest, being in daily contact with the distressed people, I have seen and closely observed the bad effect of forcible separation of the married companions. It gives them an oppression of mind which in many instances is more unbearable than the pains and agonies of the disease itself.”*

-- Father Damien, Report to the Board of Health, 1886. (*The Path of the Destroyer* by A.A. St. M. Mouritz)

April: Jonathan Napela, a former judge who translated the *Book of Mormon* into Hawaiian, accepts the job of Resident Superintendent in order to accompany his wife, Kiki Richardson Napela, to Kalaupapa as a kokua (helper). Jonathan Napela eventually contracts leprosy himself. He and Father Damien become close friends.

May: Father Damien, age 33, arrives at Kalaupapa on May 10. Within two days he decides that he wants to stay permanently. He sleeps under a pandanus tree alongside the church until he can build himself a house.

June: Peter Young Kaeo, cousin of Queen Emma, arrives at Kalaupapa on June 30. He spends three years at Kalaupapa before being discharged and provides important eyewitness accounts of the situation in his letters to Queen Emma. (See *News From Molokai*, edited by Alfons Korn)

**1874:** King Kalakaua is elected King. In April, he and Queen Kapiolani visit Kalaupapa and are met by a crowd of 200-300 people together with the band, which includes a drum, fife, and two flutes. King Kalakaua’s reign ushers in a new era characterized by a deep concern for the people of Kalaupapa.

**1875:** Kalihi Hospital in Honolulu is closed and replaced with a “detention station”.

**1879:** Ambrose Hutchison arrives at Kalaupapa on January 5. He lives at Kalaupapa for the next 53 years and serves as Resident Superintendent for a total of 10 years, longer than any other person who was also facing the challenges of leprosy. About the middle of 1879, Father Damien establishes a home for boys and elderly men and for unprotected women and girls at Kalawao.

**1881:** Princess Regent Liliuokalani visits Kalaupapa in September. Upon her return to Honolulu, she prepares papers in the name of her brother, King Kalakaua, designating Father Damien a Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Kalakaua. Having seen the situation facing her people at Kalawao, she is instrumental in establishing the Kakaako Branch Hospital in Honolulu for the treatment of persons with leprosy.

**1883:** Emissaries of the King and Queen of Hawaii write letters of appeal to the heads of more than 50 convents in the United States and Canada in search of “hospital sisters” willing to make the difficult trip to Hawaii. Only one positive response is received – from Mother Marianne Cope in Syracuse, New York. When she learns that the sisters are to care for those with leprosy, she becomes even more resolute in her determination to accept the work.



Mother Marianne Cope at the Kapi’olani Home on the grounds of the Kakaako Branch Hospital, 1885. *IDEA Archives*



Gathered together in front of the Kapiolani Home are (left to right): Sister M. Martha Kaiser, Sister M. Leopoldina Burns, Sister Rosalia McLaughlin, Sister M. Crescentia Eilers, Walter Murray Gibson, Mother Marianne Cope, and Sister M. Charles Hoffmann. With them are the first ten girls sent to the Kapiolani Home from Kalaupapa, including Ana Iopa (far right). The girl in the darker polka-dot dress in the middle is probably Makanui. Lilia is probably the girl to the far left. *IDEA Archives*

On November 8, six Sisters of St. Francis arrive in Honolulu under the leadership of Mother Marianne, to work at the Kakaako Branch Hospital.

**1884:** Queen Kapiolani and Princess Liliuokalani visit Kalaupapa in July. Ambrose Hutchison, Resident Superintendent, accompanies Queen Kapiolani as she visits each home.

**1885:** Father Damien is “officially” diagnosed as having leprosy and the news is made public. He was unofficially diagnosed in 1884 by Dr. Eduard Arning.

On November 9, 1885, the Kapiolani Home for Girls is established on the grounds of the Kakaako Branch Hospital to care for girls born to people who have leprosy at Kalaupapa.

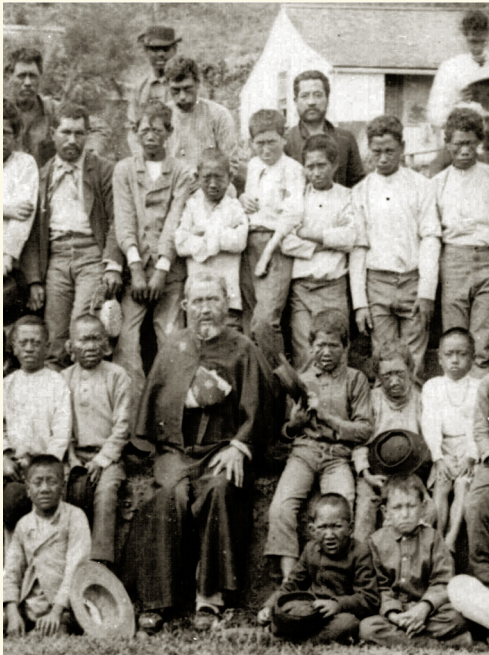


**1886:** Joseph Dutton arrives at Kalaupapa on July 29 via the pali trail and is called “Brother” by Father Damien, whom he meets the next day. He does not leave the peninsula for the next 44 years.

**1886-1894:** Evolution of the home for boys at Kalawao. Initially called the “Damien Home,” it is renamed the Baldwin Home after H. P. Baldwin of Maui who donated the funds for its expansion.

**1887:** On July 6, King Kalakaua is forced to sign the “Bayonet Constitution” by members of the Hawaiian League, a group of Caucasian planters and businessmen, predominantly American, predominantly Protestant. While the numbers of people sent to Kalaupapa had been steadily declining, this trend is now reversed.

**1888:** 558 individuals are sent to Kalaupapa, which represents the largest number of people ever sent to Kalaupapa in one year. The Kakaako Branch Hospital is closed



Father Damien with boys, Kalawao, February, 1889. Adapted from photo by H.T. Brigham, *Archives of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Picpus), Rome*



David Kamahana, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1888 and knew Father Damien. *IDEA Archives*

The Bishop Home for Girls, also referred to as the Pauahi Home, is established with a donation from Charles Reed Bishop with funds from the estate of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Mother Marianne, Sister Leopoldina and Sister Vincent arrive at Kalaupapa on November 14 and assume management of the Bishop Home.

**1889:** Father Damien dies on April 15. Upon his death, Mother Marianne assumes management of the Damien Home.

Robert Louis Stevenson visits Kalaupapa in May.

Kalihi Hospital is opened in Honolulu for the treatment of leprosy.

**1890:** Kalaupapa’s population hits a peak of 1,213.

**1893:** On January 17, 1893, Queen Liliuokalani, who ascended the throne in 1891 upon the death of her brother, King Kalakaua, is deposed by a group of American and European businessmen and a “Provisional Government” is established.

On July 1, a squad of 24 soldiers of the “Provisional Government” arrives in Kalalau Valley to force those persons who have leprosy and have isolated themselves there to leave. On July 4, those who give themselves up are taken to Kalihi Hospital in Honolulu.

Koolau and his wife, Piilani, refuse to give themselves up and retreat deep into Kalalau valley where they live for almost three and a half years. After the deaths of Koolau and their son Kaleimanu, Piilani returns home and later writes a book about their experience (*The True Story of Kaluaikoolau*).

**1894:** The Republic of Hawaii is established on July 4, with Sanford B. Dole, a former advisor to Queen Liliuokalani, as its first President and William O. Smith as Attorney General.

**1895:** The final kamaaina (original residents of Kalaupapa) are forced to leave the peninsula in January. Increasingly the settlement is concentrated on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula where the weather is not as harsh.

Four Brothers of the Sacred Heart arrive at Kalaupapa on November 30 to take care of the Baldwin Home, which is then placed under the management of Joseph Dutton.

Sister Simplicia Hue from France recovers from a debilitating illness after praying to Father Damien to intercede with God that she might be cured. Her cure will become the first miracle approved (in 1992) that leads to Father Damien’s beatification in 1995.

**1897:** The Petition Against Annexation is brought to Kalaupapa on September 11 and signed by almost 500 men and 200 women. In all, more than 21,000 people in Hawaii sign the petition against annexation.

**1898:** Hawaii is annexed by the United States on August 12.

**1901:** Father Joseph Julliotte is assigned to Kalawao and starts taking dignified portraits of the residents.

**1902:** Dr. William J. Goodhue and John D. McVeigh assume the positions of Resident Physician and Superintendent of Kalaupapa, respectively. They occupy these positions for 23 years.

**1905:** The U.S. Congress passes a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the establishment of a hospital and laboratory at Kalawao and \$50,000 for its annual upkeep. This is the first hospital for research on a specific disease authorized by Congress.

**1908:** The Kalihi Boys’ Home is established in Honolulu. From this time on, children born at Kalaupapa are taken from their parents at birth. Most spend time in the nursery at Kalaupapa and are then sent to the Kapiolani Home for Girls, the Kalihi Boys’ Home or to family or friends to raise.



The Tarrywile Bandstand at Kalaupapa, c. 1907. *IDEA Archives*.





Alice Chang Kamaka lived at Kalaupapa from 1919 until her death at the age of 94 in 2000. She is pictured in her home in 1984. *Photo by Wayne Levin.*



Adeline Keliikamakahoohie Bolster, who was friends with Alice, in her room at the Bishop Home. *Saint Marianne Cope Shrine & Museum*

**1909:** The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station at Kalawao is opened with Dr. Walter Brinckerhoff as its director.

**1913:** The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station closes, having only attracted nine individuals for a short period of time. However, a great deal of research is conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service at Kalihi Hospital in Honolulu.

**1918:** Mother Marianne dies on August 9 at the age of 80, having been at Kalaupapa for 30 years.

**1919:** Alice Chang Kamaka arrives at Kalaupapa at the age of 13. She lives there for 81 years until her death in 2000 and has the distinction of living at Kalaupapa longer than any other person.

**1920s:** Dr. J. T. McDonald and Arthur Dean further develop the ethyl esters of chaulmoogra oil as a remedy for leprosy. Dr. Harry Hollmann, who worked at Kalaupapa for many years, and Alice Ball, the first African-American chemistry instructor at the College of Hawaii, had previously isolated the active agents in the oil. McDonald and Dean receive requests from around the world for their preparation. Initial results are encouraging and many individuals are discharged. Faith in the treatment wanes by the end of the decade.

**1931:** The Board of Hospitals and Settlement takes over control of the leprosy program from the Board of Health on July 1. A survey is made of Kalaupapa and the Territorial Legislature authorizes construction of a modern hospital and largely rebuilds the rest of the settlement. Joseph Dutton dies in Honolulu on March 26 at the age of 87, having left Kalaupapa for medical reasons in 1930.

**1932:** Ambrose Hutchison dies at Kalaupapa on July 17 after having lived at Kalaupapa for over 53 years.

The Baldwin Home is moved from Kalawao to Kalaupapa. This marks the official end of the settlement at Kalawao. Kenso Seki, who arrived at Kalaupapa in 1928, is one of the final residents moved from the old Baldwin Home to the new Baldwin Home in Kalaupapa, where he assumes many roles, including scoutmaster.

**1936:** Father Damien's body is exhumed and taken to Honolulu on January 27, where it lies in state for one week. It arrives in Belgium on May 3.



Herbert Hayase, Recreation Director Kalaupapa. *IDEA Archives*



Boy Scout Troop 46, Kalaupapa. *IDEA Archives*

*"I couldn't believe our good luck. I said to myself, 'Well, the prayers of the ones before me have been answered,' and I wasn't gonna waste them. People were happy just thinking about the possibility of getting better. Every injection I took made me feel that I was closer to being able to go outside."*

-- Olivia Breitha, recalling when Promin, the first cure, was introduced at Kalaupapa

**1941:** A cure for leprosy, Promin, is discovered at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Carville, Louisiana. It is not introduced to Kalaupapa until 1946. People note changes in their health practically "overnight."

**1947:** Lawrence M. Judd, former Governor of the Territory of Hawaii, becomes the administrator at Kalaupapa. Judd literally tears down many of the physical barriers (i.e., fences) between "patients" and "non-patients."

**1949:** Hale Mohalu, located in Pearl City, replaces Kalihi Hospital as the Honolulu-based leprosy treatment center. Vocational training is provided. Only 40 people transfer to Kalaupapa between 1949 and 1969.

The Department of Health takes over administration of the leprosy program. Legislation decrees that the term "Hansen's Disease" should be used instead of "leprosy."

**1968:** Richard Marks brings attention to the antiquated attitudes towards leprosy in *Beacon Magazine* and appears on its cover. A Citizen's Committee is established to study Hawaii's policies towards leprosy/Hansen's Disease.

**1969:** Hawaii's century-old isolation laws are abolished. Legislation calls for the use of the term "leprosy" instead of "Hansen's Disease" with the idea that a concerted effort should be made to educate the public to accept the disease under its original name. Newly diagnosed individuals are treated as outpatients.

*Beacon Magazine* names Richard Marks its Man of the Year and he again appears on the cover of the magazine.

On April 15, exactly 80 years after his death, a statue of Father Damien is unveiled in Statuary Hall in the Nation's Capitol. An identical statue is placed in front of Hawaii's State Capitol.



**1973:** Citizens for the Preservation of Kalaupapa is formed to encourage historic preservation planning for Kalaupapa.

Kalaupapa resident Richard Marks is credited with initiating the idea to have Kalaupapa included as part of the National Park System. Representative Patsy T. Mink introduces a bill in Congress, HR 12012, to provide for the establishment of Kalaupapa National Historic Site.

**1978:** The residents of Hale Mohalu in Pearl City are relocated to Leahi Hospital. Several refuse to leave and remain behind, including Bernard Punikaia, Clarence Naia, and Frank and Mary Duarte.

**1980:** President Jimmy Carter signs Public Law 96-565 establishing Kalaupapa National Historical Park.



Richard Marks (right) with long-time friend, Patrick Boland, c. 1970s. *Courtesy Patrick Boland*

**1981:** The Hawaii State Legislature again decrees “Hansen’s Disease” rather than “leprosy” to be the official terminology in Hawaii.

**1983:** Bernard Punikaia, Clarence Naia, and 16 of their supporters are arrested in a pre-dawn raid at Hale Mohalu. The historic buildings are all bulldozed. All that remains is a historic chaulmoogra tree.

**1984:** Bernard Punikaia and Richard Marks are delegates to the XII International Leprosy Congress in New Delhi, India.

**1988:** *Olivia: My Life of Exile in Kalaupapa* is published. This autobiography by Olivia Robello Breitha represents the first autobiography by someone sent to Kalaupapa.

Half of the land at Hale Mohalu is awarded to the Coalition for Specialized Housing, which has been established by Bernard Punikaia and others to build affordable housing for senior citizens and persons with disabilities

**1993:** Fourteen-year-old Kate Mahoney experiences multiple organ failure and doctors believe she is going to die. Two days later, Sister Mary Laurence Hanley, research director for the Cause of Mother Marianne, visits Kate and prays for Mother Marianne to intercede with God on Kate’s behalf. Kate recovers and this will become the first miracle required for the beatification of Mother Marianne (approved by Pope John Paul II in 2004).



Bernard K. Punikai'a (left) and Jose Ramirez, Jr. participate in an IDEA workshop in Fontillles, Spain about the last leprosy communities and the people who call them home, 1997. *Photo by Pamela Parlapano*



Cathrine Puahala (left) with Huang Jiangwen, on a trip to Sian Island, following the XV International Leprosy Congress in Beijing, P.R. China. *Photo by Valerie Monson*

**1994:** IDEA – The International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement is organized as the first international human rights advocacy organization led by individuals who have personally faced the challenges of leprosy. Several Kalaupapa residents are involved in the founding and evolution of this organization. Bernard K. Punikai'a becomes IDEA's President for International Advocacy in 2000 and holds this position until his death in 2009 at the age of 78.

**1995:** Father Damien is beatified on June 4 in Brussels, Belgium.

**1996:** The new Hale Mohalu, built by the Coalition for Specialized Housing is dedicated on the Hale Mohalu site. The new housing complex provides affordable housing for more than 200 individuals. Many of the wings of the building are named after Kalaupapa residents who were involved in efforts to retain Hale Mohalu.

Richard Marks receives the Damien-Dutton Award. Previous recipients include President Kennedy, the Peace Corps, and Mother Teresa.

**1997:** Bernard K. Punikai'a gives the keynote address at a dinner at the United Nations commemorating the opening of the *Quest for Dignity* Exhibit. The title for this Exhibit was taken from a quote by Bernard Punikai'a. Makia Malo composes and performs an original chant for the occasion.

Ed Kato is named Male Older American of the Year by the Maui County Office on Aging (which includes Kalawao County in its outreach) for his contributions to the community over so many years.

Cathrine Puahala is named one of the "People Who Made a Difference" in 1997 by *The Maui News* for speaking up for the rights of people who have experienced leprosy and for making Kalaupapa a better place with her many ideas for activities.

**1998:** Audrey Toguchi and two of her sisters travel to Kalaupapa to pray at Father Damien's grave and ask for his intercession in the cure of her cancer. They also attended mass at St. Philomena Church. Audrey Toguchi also had two relatives who had been sent to Kalaupapa – Blanche and Stanley Horner. In 1999, no symptoms of cancer can be found and this will become the second miracle attributed to the intercession of Father Damien.



**2002:** The First International Conference on Issues Facing Women Affected by Leprosy is sponsored by IDEA in association with Women's Rights National Historic Park and the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site. The Conference is held in Seneca Falls, New York, the site of the First Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Representatives from Brazil, P.R. China, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, South Korea, Suriname and the U.S. are present.

Makia and Ann Malo establish the Makia Malo Scholarship for Hawaiians studying medicine, dentistry, or law.



The U.S. Delegation, representing Kalaupapa and Carville (Louisiana), enters the historic Wesleyan Chapel at Women's Rights National Historical Park, where the First Women's Rights Convention was held in 1848. *Photo by Henry Law*



Makia Malo with Paul Kaiwi, the first recipient of the Makia & Ann Malo Scholarship. *Photo by Valerie Monson*

**2003:** More than 70 people, including Kalaupapa residents, staff workers, family members, and others with a long-standing concern for the people of Kalaupapa, join together to establish Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, The Family of Kalaupapa. This represents the first organized attempt to help families come together, to help heal their memories, to help restore family ties.



Andrew Manuel (left) and Dayton Kupele re-enact the photo taken of their grandfathers, Ben Pea and David Kupele, on the lanai of Bayview Home. *Photo by Wayne Levin*



Ed Weight holds a photograph of his mother, Marcia Ka-ne, for the first time on September 23, 2011. Born at Kalaupapa in 1930, this was the first time he had ever seen a photo of his mother. *Photo by Valerie Monson*



*“Some people who are trying to learn about their family history will come to find out that they had relatives at Kalaupapa. If they feel at all the same way that we do, they will be proud that their family was part of the ʻāina, part of the soul of this land.”*

-- Bernard K. Punikaiʻa, Founding Member and Chairman of the Board, Ka ʻOhana O Kalaupapa, 2003



ʻOhana members gather at the Waikolu overlook during an Annual Meeting in 2013. They are joined by former Governor John Waiheʻe (third from left). Photo by Henry Law



Danny Hashimoto with Pulitzer Prize winning poet William S. Merwin, following a reading by Merwin in association with the *Quest for Dignity* Exhibit on Maui. Photo by Henry Law



Olivia Breitha at the Voices of Humanity Award Ceremony, Seneca Falls, New York. Photo by Natsuko Tominaga, The Nippon Foundation



Bill Malo represents Hawaiʻi at an international conference held on Robben Island, South Africa. Photo by Henry Law

**2004:** Olivia Breitha receives one of the first Voices of Humanity Awards, together with Michiko Yamaoka, a survivor of Hiroshima, and Sonia Schreiber Weitz, a survivor of five concentration camps during the Holocaust.

**2005:** William Malo co-chairs a workshop on “The Experience of Isolation” at an international conference “Stigma, Identity & Human Rights: The Experience of Leprosy in the Era of HIV/AIDS” held in February on Robben Island, South Africa.

Mother Marianne is beatified in Rome on May 14. Her remains are returned to the St. Anthony Convent and Motherhouse in Syracuse, New York. Later in the year, Mother Marianne is inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.



Sharon Smith, age 65, experiences a severe case of pancreatitis, the infection spreads through her body and becomes so severe that doctors feel that her organs are literally being destroyed and there is no hope of recovery. Hawaii-born Sister of St. Francis Michaelleen Cabral pins a small container of dirt from Mother Marianne’s grave in Kalaupapa onto Sharon Smith’s hospital gown. She and others pray for her recovery through the intercession of Blessed Marianne. In 2006, Sharon Smith is released from the hospital. (See the *Hawaii Catholic Herald*, January 20, 2012)

**2006:** Henry Nalaeiua publishes his life-story, *No Footprints in the Sand*.

**2008:** The Hawaii State Legislature passes a resolution to thank and apologize to the people of Kalaupapa and their families. The resolution, which was the idea of longtime resident Paul Harada, was brought to the Legislature by Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa.

Pope Benedict XVI signs the decree accepting the unexplainable cure from cancer of Audrey Toguchi from Hawai‘i as the second miracle attributed to Father Damien.

**2009:** On March 30, as a result of the efforts of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa and Hawaii’s Congressional Delegation, the Kalaupapa Memorial Act is signed into law by President Barack Obama. This Act authorizes Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa to establish a Memorial listing the names of the estimated 8,000 persons who were sent to Kalaupapa due to government policies regarding leprosy.

Father Damien is canonized on October 11 at the Vatican. Present are people from around the world, including people who have experienced leprosy and many students, showing how Father Damien’s life continues to inspire people to work for justice.



President Barack Obama signs into law the legislation that created The Kalaupapa Memorial Act on March 20, 2009. *Official White House photo by Lawrence Jackson*



Kanani Costales, Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa Annual Meeting, 2011. *Photo by Wayne Levin*



Circle of Remembrance at the site of the future Kalaupapa Memorial, 2016. *Photo by Wayne Levin*

**2011:** On December 19, Pope Benedict XVI signs the decree recognizing the cure of Sharon Smith as the second miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Marianne.

*Adjourned With a Prayer: The Minutes of Siloama & Kanaana Hou Churches* is published. Based on the minutes of Siloama, the first church at Kalawao, and Kanaana Hou, the sister church in Kalaupapa that was established later, the book contains 40 pages of names of the members of these two churches.

**2012:** “A Source of Light, Constant and Never-Fading: The Relationship Between the People of Kalaupapa and Hawaiï’s Royal Family” opens at ‘Iolani Palace. The Exhibit continues to travel throughout Hawaiï.

The canonization of Mother Marianne takes place at the Vatican on October 21.



Sister Davilyn Ah Chick, O.S.F., participates in the ceremony for the Canonization of Mother Marianne Cope at the Vatican. *Photo by Henry Law*



Stephen Inglis and Dennis Kamakahi participate in the Opening Ceremony for the Exhibit at ‘Iolani Palace. They are pictured with Kapoli Kamakau, a composer and musician who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1888. Kapoli Kamakau was a treasured friend of Queen Liliuokalani and Mother Marianne Cope. *Photo by Henry Law*

**2013:** The Board of Land & Natural Resources approves a 65-year lease to Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa for the land where the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located. This means that the families of those residents whose names will be engraved on the Memorial will be stakeholders at Kalaupapa long into the future.

On July 17, a ceremony is held to commemorate the re-installation of a time capsule at Siloama Church. The time capsule was originally installed in 1966 and was opened in 2012. The residents of Kalaupapa contributed photos and written materials to the time capsule, which will be opened again in 50 years.

**2014:** Kalaupapa Sunday is held for the first time in United Church of Christ congregations across Hawaiï, to remember the people of Kalaupapa.

The Saint Marianne Cope Shrine and Museum is opened on the grounds of St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

The SS.CC. U.S. Province Archives opens its new archives facility at St. Patrick Monastery in Honolulu and makes its historical resources on Kalaupapa and leprosy available to Kalaupapa family members and the general public.



**.2016:** January 6 marks the 150th anniversary of the day the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa. Commemorative events are held on all islands.

Damien Tours celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Left: Richard Marks with his tour bus. *Damien Tours website.*  
Above: Richard & Gloria Marks, owners of Damien Tours, shown in 1996. *Photo by Valerie Monson*

At Hale Mohalu in Pearl City, the newest low-income rental facility is dedicated and named “Kalaupapa ‘Ohana” to honor the generations of residents who lived at Kalaupapa and Hale Mohalu and their families.

Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa partners with the SS.CC. U.S. Province Archives on a project to identify individuals in the photographs taken by Father Joseph Julliotte between 1901 and 1907.

**2017:** The 60th anniversary of the death of Mele Meheula, who was sent to Kalaupapa in 1888 at the age of 9 and was a witness for the Cause of Father Damien. Her death on December 1, 1957 was reported on the front page of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa has helped nearly 700 family members reconnect to their Kalaupapa ancestors.

*“They’re not lost, they’re waiting. They’re waiting for us to find them.”*

-- Kuulei Bell, First President of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa



Alfred Gomes White Branco was 15 years old when he was sent to Kalaupapa on July 21, 1902. He married Frances Santos Saraba in 1912. She lived long enough to be a witness for the Cause of Mother Marianne Cope. *Photo by Father Joseph Julliotte, Congregation of the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province Collection*



Clarence “Boogie” Kahilihiwa receives a lei from Pauline Chow as part of a ho’okupu ceremony at the site where the Kalaupapa Memorial will be located. With them are ‘Aina Akamu and Noelani Kauahikaua. *Photo by Henry Law*



Alice Kaelemakule (right) was sent to Kalaupapa on January 24, 1905 at the age of 20. She married John Unea on August 10, 1905. She is pictured with Hattie P. Kalua, who was 30 years old when she traveled to Kalaupapa on the same ship as Alice. *Photo by Father Joseph Julliotte. Congregation of the Sacred Hearts U.S. Province Collection*





Bayview Home, Old Dining Room, Kalaupapa. *Photo by Henry Law*

Diacritical marks (the ‘okina and kahakō) in current use to aid in the pronunciation, spelling and comprehension of Hawaiian words are not generally used in this booklet because names are primarily from a time period before these symbols were used. However, they are retained in quotations from modern sources and in the names of individuals and organizations that have chosen to use them.

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