

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“THE RESTORATION OF FAMILY TIES: BRINGING HOME
THE FAMILIES OF KALAUPAPA”**

Valerie Monson’s Illustrated Lecture Will Share Inspiring Family Stories

HONOLULU: Historic Hawai‘i Foundation (HHF), and Native Books/Nā Mea Hawai‘i will host an illustrated talk by Valerie Monson of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa. Since organizing more than 10 years ago, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa's program, "The Restoration of Family Ties" has helped hundreds of families in Hawai`i learn more about ancestors or loved ones who were sent to Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding leprosy (now also called Hansen's disease).

“Ka 'Ohana uses a growing collection of information we have compiled from various archives and other sources: admissions registers, marriage, birth, death and census records, church minutes, petitions, photographs and letters of early residents of Kalaupapa that were originally written in Hawaiian. Using all of this information, we have been able to bring the people of Kalaupapa back into the history that they helped to create and help families remember these ancestors with love and pride,” says Valerie Monson who will present the lecture on behalf of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa. Her presentation will share some of these stories accompanied by a combination of historical and contemporary photographs.

Ka 'Ohana has been recognized as initiating the first organized effort in Hawai`i to restore family ties at Kalaupapa. 'Ohana leaders have been invited to attend conferences in Japan and Taiwan to share their experiences and inspire families there to reconnect with their ancestors who were isolated because of leprosy.

What: “The Restoration of Family Ties: Bringing Home the Families of Kalaupapa”
an illustrated lecture with Valerie Monson of Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa

When: Thursday, July 24, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

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Where: Native Books/Nā Mea Hawai‘i, Ward Warehouse, 1050 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu

Cost: Free & open to the public, light refreshments will be served

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Historic Hawai‘i Foundation (HHF) is a statewide non-profit organization that encourages the preservation of historic buildings, sites, communities and objects relating to the history of Hawai‘i. Founded in 1974, Historic Hawai‘i Foundation has become the driving force behind historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, and providing technical assistance to make preservation accessible. www.historichawaii.org

Native Books/Nā Mea Hawai‘i is a gathering space—workshop, studio and retail. A place for learning, and making, a place of exchange featuring locally made products alongside culturally grounded practices, and books, CDs and DVDS about Hawai‘i and the Pacific. It is also a place to talk story, spend time, read a book, have some tea, make something, buy something and support a different way of being in community.

Ka ‘Ohana O Kalaupapa, established in August, 2003, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the value and dignity of every individual who was exiled to the Kalaupapa peninsula beginning in 1866. Those who support ‘Ohana 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.