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Keep Kalaupapa for Hawaii

The acquisition of Kalaupapa Settlement by the federal government and the creation of a national historical park at Kalaupapa merits the strong and concerted opposition of the people of Hawaii.

In 1975, House and Senate Congressional Resolution #220 was passed, authorizing the secretary of Interior to acquire land at Kalaupapa Settlement by donation and exchange and to establish thereon the Kalaupapa National Historical Park, to be administered as federal property and as part of the National Park System. A commission has been engaged to study the feasibility and desirability of turning Kalaupapa into a national park when there are no patients left there to be cared for

As a state senator, I have great admiration and respect for the National Park Service and its purpose of preserving national historical, archaeological and recreational areas for future generations throughout our country. However, I am strongly opposed to the cession of Kalaupapa to the federal government.

I would like to tell you my reasons

- The federal government, through no fault of its own, is thousands of miles away and can hardly be expected to share the same attachments to Kalaupapa as we in Hawaii have. And although the National Park

Services has the necessary expertise in the management and interpretation of historical sites nationwide, problems often occur that are related to our unique local situations. Kalaupapa itself is unique. Steady rotation of park administrators within the National Park System makes it very difficult for federal administrators to interrelate with and understand the sensitive problems and concerns of our Hawaiian communities.

- Problems of funding must also be recognized. We must compete for funds on a national basis. We have only four representatives in Congress—hardly a powerful lobby.

- The people of Hawaii should govern their own destiny and not forfeit it to the federal government. We have a state park system which can preserve and manage Kalaupapa much more efficiently and with greater understanding of the cultural values of this very special place.

- The state Legislature and the governor of Hawaii have a moral obligation to see to it that adequate funds are available for the management and preservation of Kalaupapa

- The state park system should be the body responsible to authorize and supervise the proper use of

Kalaupapa, rather than an administration in Washington, D.C., which is compelled to follow national guidelines that may not fit Hawaii. We have already experienced this disparity in many other areas, where national policy simply has not been compatible with the character of the island state of Hawaii.

- The Hawaiian people of Hawaii are fighting for reparations from the United States government. The Hawaiian people are fighting the U.S. Navy for the return of Kahoolawe. The military already has 15 percent of Oahu's choicest land. Are we now to give more of our land away to the United States government? I think not.

The above are salient points why the community cannot let the federal government take over and manage Kalaupapa.

I urge all interested citizens to make their views known by writing to the Reverend David Kaupu, chairman of the Kalaupapa National Historical Park Advisory Committee, Room 6305, Prince Kuhio Federal Building, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, or appear and express their views at the public hearings scheduled by the committee

WADSWORTH YEE
+ State Senator