



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL PATIENTS REMEMBERED**

HONOLULU – Hawaii State Hospital will conduct the second annual remembrance service for 667 patients, who passed away and were forgotten at the hospital from 1930 to 1960, on Friday, July 1, 2005. The service is open to people living with mental illnesses at the hospital and in the community, hospital staff, former consumers and staff, and community members.

From 1930-1960 a State law prohibited using taxpayer funds to bury indigent patients who died while residing at the Territorial Hospital (as it was then named). The unclaimed remains of patients were cremated and the ashes stored in the basement of the Goddard Administration Building. With time, the moist windward air degraded the warehoused containers. Ashes from broken containers eventually spilled onto the floor and many of the affixed labels fell away or became faded or illegible.

Such was the state of affairs until early 1960, when public pressure on the First State Legislature resulted in funds being appropriated to properly bury the 667 at the then-new Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery in Kaneohe.

All the remains were placed in urns and buried in four concrete vaults at a sloping lawn at an edge of the cemetery. Two bronze plaques placed at the site memorialized the names of 540

(more)

known patients. In addition, 127 "unknowns," those whose identification labels had become unreadable, were laid to rest as well.

Lt. Governor Duke Aiona will be in attendance to address the community members, consumers and staff. Highlights of the annual July 1st service will also include consumers playing music, singing and leading the participants in prayer and meditation.

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