

Kalima Lawsuit Update—Probate Process

Identifying and distributing all payments to the correct heirs of Deceased Class Members is now the main focus of the Kalima claims payment process. Probate Special Master Emily Kawashima and Probate Special Counsel Scott Suzuki have completed 20 probate petitions covering the claims of nearly 600 deceased class members in the Kalima lawsuit settlement. Nearly \$35 million has been disbursed to the survivors of the deceased class members covered through these petitions to date.

Overview of the Probate Process

Under the court-approved Probate Plan, the Court evaluates approximately 30 estates in a single hearing. This process is much more efficient and economical, instead of requiring every estate to be processed separately. Costs are divided proportionately between the estates of the deceased class members covered in a particular petition.

Missing Family Information Forms

The primary function of the Probate Plan is to ensure that the correct people receive the correct proportion of the settlement proceeds for each Deceased Class Member. This requires Ms. Kawashima and Mr. Suzuki to spend substantial time to try to locate and verify all of the survivors of the Deceased Class Members. Family members can advance this work by completing Deceased Class Member and Family information Forms which can be downloaded from the kalima-lawsuit.com website. Families who have completed the forms are given priority in the probate process. If you have information regarding a Deceased Class Member and/or their family members, please fill out these forms as completely and accurately as possible.

Probate Hearing

The Court's final review of each petition will be at a Probate Hearing. Notice of these hearings will be posted to the kalima-lawsuit.com website and published in the newspaper. You are not required to attend the hearing, but the Court does appreciate participation by heirs who attend and share their family's experience.

Once the hearing is completed, the Probate Special Master and Special Counsel will draft a proposed order for the Court to review and approve. This process usually takes 2 months, but may take longer for complex estates. The order is not final until 30 days after the Court signs the order, giving parties the opportunity to file an appeal. At the end of the appeal period, the Claims Administrator will begin to process payments, which may also take 2 months, but also may take longer. This time is necessary to ensure proper payments are made to each heir in every petition and that all amounts due are fully paid to the correct people.

For family members who believe that their relative was a class member, please contact the Claims Administrator at 1-808-650-5551 or 1-833-639-1308, email info@kalima-lawsuit.com or mail at P.O. Box 135035 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801.

Attorney Talk Story

For more information, we invite you attend a Talk Story with Class Counsel, Thomas Grande and Carl Varady, as well as Emily Kawashima and Scott Suzuki. The next Talk Story will take place on July 14, 2025, at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Go to kalima-lawsuit.com for the Zoom link.