
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN
RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND THE HAWAII
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER TO REFRAIN FROM DEVELOPING,
TESTING, PROPAGATING, CULTIVATING, RAISING, OR GROWING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES IN
THE STATE OR CONDUCTING ANY TYPE OF RESEARCH THAT WOULD
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN TARO VARIETIES.

1 WHEREAS, kalo (*colocasia esculenta*), the Hawaiian word for
2 taro, is a culturally significant plant to the kanaka maoli,
3 Hawaii's indigenous peoples; and
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5 WHEREAS, kalo provides the kanaka maoli's life-giving
6 sustenance, poi; and
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8 WHEREAS, over three hundred kalo varieties may have existed
9 at the time of the arrival of European explorers and today there
10 are approximately seventy varieties of taro and of these, the
11 majority are unique to the Hawaiian islands due to the
12 horticultural skills of native Hawaiian farmers; and
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14 WHEREAS, the important cultural relationship between kalo
15 and the kanaka maoli continues today in the cultivation of kalo
16 and ohana, the Hawaiian word for family; and
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18 WHEREAS, kalo expresses the spiritual and physical well-
19 being of not only the kanaka maoli and their heritage, but also
20 symbolizes the environmental, social, and cultural values
21 important to the State; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the College of
26 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of
27 Hawaii and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center are requested
28 to refrain from developing, testing, propagating, cultivating,



S.C.R. NO.

1 raising, or growing genetically modified traditional Hawaiian
2 taro varieties in the State or conducting any type of research
3 that would significantly impact traditional Hawaiian taro
4 varieties; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Concurrent Resolution does
7 not include a request to refrain from developing, testing,
8 propagating, cultivating, raising, or growing genetically
9 modified taro of the non-Hawaiian variety, including Chinese
10 taro, in the State; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board
14 of Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture
15 and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii, and the
16 Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.
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OFFERED BY: _____

